

Jordan Times

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Arab diplomats protest anti-Arab campaign

NICOSIA (AP) — Arab diplomatic missions here issued a joint statement Friday denouncing a recent upsurge of anti-Arab comment in the local press. This followed the robbery-murder of a Greek Cypriot taxi driver by three Jordanians in the south coast city of Limassol last week. The two men and a woman, had entered the island on 15-day tourist visas, but they stayed on as illegal immigrants with the men working as construction labourers. Newspapers linked the murder with the presence of hundreds of other illegal Arab immigrants working without government permits demanding their deportation as undesirable criminal elements. The murder resulted in an upsurge of anti-Arab feeling in Limassol, the tourist city favoured by Arab visitors to Cyprus. The murder was also followed by minor incidents between groups of Cypriot and Arab youths in Limassol. The statement by the council of the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Cyprus said that "while fully deploring this heinous crime, expresses strong astonishment over the defamatory campaign against Arabs by certain Cypriot newspapers."

Kuwaiti sheikh dies celebrating

CAIRO (AP) — A member of the Kuwaiti ruling family choked to death on a piece of meat while celebrating his birthday, a police source said Wednesday. The source said Sheikh Mohammad Khalifa Al Sabah was celebrating his 44th birthday in his apartment in the posh residential area of Zamalek. "He was eating meat and he choked on a large piece and died," the police source said. Kuwaiti embassy was closed for the day and telephone calls to Kuwaiti diplomats at home went unanswered. In some cases, callers were told the requested diplomats were unavailable. Sheikh Mohammad was a brother of Kuwaiti former oil minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah. His exact relationship to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah was not immediately known.

Frenchman shot dead in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen shot dead a Frenchman in a Lebanese village early on Friday, police said. Guy Rene Rogues, 23, was killed instantly by three bullets in front of his home in Kfar Habb, east of the port of Jounieh, 13 kilometres north of Beirut, at around 1 a.m. (2200 GMT Thursday). Police said Rogues, whose mother is Lebanese, arrived in Lebanon two months ago. His killing did not appear to be linked to political violence.

Saddam meets Habash

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein met radical Palestinian guerrilla leader George Habash on Friday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It gave no details of his talks with Syrian-based Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), who was visiting Baghdad for the first time this year. INA said Habash met Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer on Thursday to discuss how to maintain "coordination and cooperation" between Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, of which the PFLP is a member.

Turkey says no to Iraqi oil exports

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has rebuffed a direct Iraqi appeal that Ankara reopen a vital oil pipeline which before the Gulf crisis was the source of half of Baghdad's hard currency. Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurbane Altinkaya said he told visiting Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz the pipeline would stay shut until the United Nations lifted sanctions imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August. Aziz said he had told Turkey: "Iraq is ready to resume pipeline operation, whether to meet Turkey's needs, or for export to markets abroad."

State of emergency in Soviet Dagestan city

MOSCOW (AP) — A state of emergency was in force Friday in the Caspian Sea city of Makhachkala after hundreds of Muslims demanding cheap trips to Mecca, rioted. TASS said. Soldiers were posted on the streets of Makhachkala and armoured vehicles guarded the main square after the state of emergency was declared Thursday by the parliament of the Dagestan autonomous republic. TASS said. Hundreds of Muslims demanding free or cheap trips to Mecca attacked the main government building in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, on Thursday. TASS said.

Space shuttle lands

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — Space shuttle Columbia landed Thursday on a clear sky and returned home with seven astronauts Friday following a nine-day mission that provided new insight into how humans adapt to space. Columbia landed on the desert base's concrete runway at 8:39 a.m. pdt (1539 GMT). The space shuttle's arrival was marked by the customary twin sonic booms.

Syria pledges to support Lebanese army move south

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told Lebanese President Elias Hrawi on Friday that Damascus backed plans for the Lebanese army to extend state control in south Lebanon. A presidential statement in Beirut said the pledge was made during a telephone call in which the two leaders discussed the government's drive to extend its authority across all Lebanon. Hrawi's Syrian-backed government plans to send more troops to parts of the south next month to disarm Palestinian guerrillas in a region bordering Israeli-held territory.

"President Assad assured (Hrawi) of his country's continued support to all steps... to deploy the Lebanese army over all Lebanese territory, especially the south," the statement said. "President Assad also reiterated Syria's willingness to provide any help requested by the Lebanese government to implement its decisions and to allow

Lebanon to regain its sovereignty and security over all of its territory," it added. Israeli military sources said on Thursday the Jewish state has increased its military activity around the strategic town of Jezzine overlooking Palestinian bases east of the port of Sidon. Some diplomats in Beirut see the Israeli military moves as reflecting Israel's opposition to a wide-ranging Syrian-Lebanese cooperation treaty which took effect 11 days ago.

Israel says the treaty amounted to Syria devouring Lebanon. Western diplomatic sources said the increased Israeli patrols and a series of Israeli air strikes which began as the treaty went into effect were politically and militarily unjustified.

The United States called for Israel to show restraint in south Lebanon after an air strike east of Sidon on June 4 which was one of the heaviest air raids since Israel's 1982 invasion.

Palestinian fighters have vowed not to give up their arms in the south as long as Israel and an Israeli-backed militia holds on to a "security zone" to protect its northern border. The Lebanese government is currently trying to persuade the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to pull out its gunmen from the area east of Sidon before the army moves in. Jezzine, which is held by Israeli troops and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, is far beyond the 15-km deep security zone which Israel set up in 1985.

Israel has publicly vowed to hold on to the largely Christian enclave and vowed not to leave Lebanon until it feels its northern border is safe. The Lebanese government says its troops in the south will both protect the Palestinians and stop guerrilla attacks. It wants an immediate Israeli withdrawal in line with a 1978 U.N. Security Council resolution.

Cairo denies relations with Israel scaled down

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt, anxious to keep alive Middle East peace efforts, on Friday dismissed as baseless media reports that it was cutting back contacts with Israel.

"There is no truth in these reports," Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters. He declined to make further comment. Earlier on Friday, Israeli radio said Egypt had decided to reduce cooperation with official Israeli bodies, including a halt to cultural and professional contacts. The London-based Arabic language Al Hayat also quoted an unnamed Egyptian official as saying Cairo would freeze official exchanges with the Jewish state. "Cairo decided" to stop all forms of official dealings with Tel Aviv and to freeze bilateral agreement and exchange of official delegations," the newspaper quoted the official as saying on Thursday.

The reports followed signs of Egyptian frustration at Israel's

rejection of U.S. proposals to convene a Middle East peace conference.

President Hosni Mubarak urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in an interview published on Wednesday to be flexible. He said it was impossible for Israel to maintain its occupation of Arab lands and expect peace.

But he said again he was unwilling to meet Shamir unless their talks produced tangible results. Cairo has repeatedly denounced Israel's policy of settling Jews among Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Labour Party members said Thursday Egypt will invite Israel's foreign minister to Cairo as part of an effort to warm up chilly relations. Nawaf Masalha of Israel's Labour Party also told reporters that Egypt remains determined to

press for Arab-Israeli peace talks but will not join without Syria. Masalha, an Arab, spoke after he and five fellow Labour members of the Knesset held separate meetings Thursday with two top level Egyptian foreign policy makers. They were Butros Ghali, deputy premier for foreign relations, and President Hosni Mubarak's chief political adviser, Osama Al Baz.

"We have heard (from the Egyptians) that Israel's foreign minister will be invited to visit Egypt," Masalha said.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met Levy on Thursday and denied reports that President George Bush was considering inviting Middle East foreign ministers to a special meeting. Levy came to Washington to explain his government's rejection last week of U.S. proposals to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

Army deploys in Algiers; Madani calls on supporters to stay watchful

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's Islamic fundamentalist leader Abassi Madani urged some 25,000 people to leave Friday prayers peacefully but to remain alert and await the first call of their leaders. Speaking to some 25,000 supporters in the Kouba stronghold of his Islamic Salvation Front, (FIS), Madani criticised the deployment of troops and tanks around mosques and said it was an attack on their religion.

"It is a crime to deploy the army around the mosque. Who has taken this decision?" he asked, adding he would contact the military to find out and what was planned in future.

Armed troops and tanks moved into Kouba after Friday prayers, and many had withdrawn in the past week when

the FIS called off a general strike which had turned into violent protests.

An official source, cited by the Algerian news agency APS, said 17 people were killed up to last Monday and 219 injured. Western diplomats spoke of between 40 and 50 dead, and the FIS said at least 20.

President Chadli Benjedid imposed a state of siege on June 5, sacked the government and postponed June 27 general elections whose framework the FIS opposed.

"We are neither agreed for the army to move in, nor (deploy) around our mosque and strangle us and (make an) attack on our religion," the FIS leader said.

"Our country is living in a very serious state... remain vigilant and listen for the first call from your leaders to confront all the enemy who would threaten our people."

Madani added: "If there is a coup d'etat, we will be ready to confront it." He called for Friday prayers to proceed normally and for prayergoers to disperse "with heads held high."

During the morning, at the Kouba mosque in the heights of Algiers, soldiers with kalashnikov rifles watched as thousands of people gathered to hear Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj. Police and national guard manned two barricades, checking those going to the mosque, as other people streamed there through narrow sidestreets.

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attack was part of an increase in violence planned by Nahdha with the aim of seizing power. At least 300 people, including about 100 members of the armed forces, were subsequently arrested.

Meanwhile, Tunisian learned Friday that they had been reading censored newspapers for the past six months. The government on Thursday lifted a strict system of prior censorship which it had imposed because of the Gulf crisis. Authorities did not reveal the censorship at the time and had forbidden newspapers from mentioning it.

Censorship was imposed to prevent publication of "sensational" reports about the Gulf crisis, the government said. Tunisian authorities said the

His Majesty thanks Jordanians King back at home, feeling fine

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein spent the weekend resting at home, after being discharged from hospital Thursday with a clean bill of health.

Authorised sources told the Jordan Times Friday that the King was "doing very well. He is really fine and is now resting," they did not elaborate. Upon leaving Al Hussein Medical City Thursday afternoon, the King told reporters he was feeling well.

The King is now recuperating following a four-day stay at hospital undergoing treatment for irregular heartbeat, and his doctors said he should have rest for at least four weeks.

An official statement from the Royal Court said Thursday that King Hussein was discharged from the Queen Alia Heart Institute at Al Hussein Medical City after recovering from the irregular heartbeat condition from which he suffered last Monday. King Hussein responded well to the treatment and his heart is beating regularly and normally, following the series of medical tests and rest, said the statement.

As hundreds of people stood outside the hospital to see him, the King read out an address to the nation thanking the Jordanian people for their support and concern and pledging to continue his work towards

political pluralism as stipulated in the National Charter endorsed by the general congress last Sunday.

"Now that I have passed this indisposition which forced me to have rest, I find myself unable to thank you enough for the affection with which I was overwhelmed by my people," the King said in his address.

"Now that I am leaving hospital after recovery, I plan to join your march and great work to which we have dedicated our lives in order to build up our dear homeland under the umbrella of the National Charter," the King said.

Democracy, he added, "is the greatest thing that could be achieved by the people and their leadership, because it gives momentum to our endeavours to attain our aspirations."

Hundreds of people cheered and women ululated with joy as the King waved as he emerged from hospital. As the King drove away, his doctor, cardiologist Yousef Qusous told a press conference that the irregular heartbeat known medically as fibrillation was not dangerous and had no lasting effects.

King Hussein who regularly sees a cardiologist in London, has suffered from the same condition several times in the past. Doctors and other officials said the main reason for the irregular heartbeat was fatigue after two days of state functions in which he shook



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Thursday greets well-wishers as he leaves Al Hussein Medical Centre (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

hands with thousands of people. Dr. Qusous, director of the Queen Alia Heart Institute, who supervised the King's treatment, told reporters that the King's heart was one hundred per cent safe and sound, and was functioning normally following the treatment over the past few days.

The heartbeat is not a sign of any ailment, and the King's heart arteries, muscles and valves are absolutely sound, Qusous, who has just been promoted to the rank of major general in the armed forces, said. The irregular heartbeat, Qusous added, can affect any person at any age, but is curable

through drugs and medical treatment. He said that the King had suffered from sleeplessness and unusual exhaustion in the past week, and now he has to have a four week recuperation period with reduced functions but does not require medical treatment abroad.

During his stay in hospital, King Hussein received Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan who conveyed the Iraqi president's best wishes for his speedy recovery. The King also received cables

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Iraq warns Iran for 'spreading lies'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq said Friday that Iran is spreading lies about an alleged plan to massacre Shiite Muslims and warned that it should remember the lessons of the Iran-Iraq war.

Meanwhile, U.N. teams from both countries met on their southern border to discuss plans for displaced Iraqi Shiites to return to their homes in Iraq. Front-page articles in government-run newspapers in Baghdad answered what they said were "untrue statements" by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and accused him of "trying to interfere in the interior affairs of Iraq."

The articles, reported by the official Iraqi news agency, implied that Iran had ulterior motives in claiming that the Iraqi army stood poised to massacre hundreds of thousands of Shiite Muslims purportedly stranded in Iraq's southern marshlands since the Shiite rebellion was put down in March.

Iran, predominantly Shiite, sees itself as protector of its coreligionists in Iraq. "The Iraqi people know well how to defend themselves and their border," the Al Thawra newspaper was quoted as saying.

The news agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Al Thawra and another daily, Al Qadisiya, warned Rafsanjani "to remember previous incidents with an amount of wisdom and rationality

and not to forget the painful facts that Iran gathered through eight years of war with Iraq."

Al Thawra said Rafsanjani had been misled by the overwhelming allied victory that drove Iraq from Kuwait and was now subject to the kind of "imaginings" that led Iran and Iraq into the bloody 1980-1988 conflict that left one million casualties and near economic ruin for both nations.

Iraq has claimed that Iran supported the Shiite rebellion that followed the Feb. 28 Gulf war ceasefire with supplies and soldiers. Some officials insist that all the fighting was done by Iranians. Incursions by Iranian and Shiite Iraqi opposition forces intent on trying to spread their fundamentalist state after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution were a major factor leading to Iraq's 1980 invasion that began the Iran-Iraq war. The fighting ended with a ceasefire in August 1988.

President Saddam Hussein agreed to Iran's peace terms after his Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait to concentrate his military activities on the southern front as the U.S.-led allied buildup began in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

U.N. and U.S. officials and independent western journalists in Iraq have reported no unusual military activity in the south. U.N. missions from Iran and Iraq met Friday at a border crossing near Bostan

No aid without reform, Bush tells Soviets

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Friday that he wants to see more reforms in the Soviet Union before offering major aid.

Bush also said he still hoped to have a summer with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, despite difficulties in reaching agreement on the strategic arms reduction treaty that both sides hope to sign at the summit.

"I think we need a reform package..." Bush said aboard air force one on a flight to California. "I think there's a recognition on all sides that the best way to assist the whole reform process is to move to reform itself and then we'll see what happens."

Bush said he was pleased to grant the Soviets \$1.5 billion in grain credits and "there are other things that we're moving on. But in terms of this whole reported megabuck package, I think we've got a lot of discussion to do in terms of reform. And they know that. This doesn't come as any surprise to Mr. Gorbachev."

Bush was asked if the leaders of six other major western na-

tions meeting in London this July were agreed on that. "I don't think there are big divisions in the G7 on this... so far, nobody's sent me a letter saying 'hey, please write out a check for whatever it is, 150 billion dollars.'"

The host of the Group of Seven meeting, British Prime Minister John Major, announced Thursday that Gorbachev had been invited to meet with the leaders after their July 15-17 summit.

The invitation followed weeks of negotiations among Bush, Major and the other leaders of the Group of Seven nations on how to respond.

The leaders of the United States, Britain, Japan, Canada, Germany, France and Italy agreed in principle several days ago on the compromise formula of inviting Gorbachev to London after the summit formally ends.

Western leaders have been cautious in promising extensive loans to the Soviets. But Bush agreed Tuesday to grant the Soviets \$1.5 billion in credits to buy U.S. grain.

Britain to veto U.N. lifting of sanctions

SWANSEA, Wales (Agencies) — Prime Minister John Major said Friday Britain would veto any moves in the United Nations to lift sanctions on Iraq.

"There are some who argue for concessions to be made to Iraq. I am not among them," he told a conference of his ruling Conservative Party.

"So long as (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein stays in power we will maintain our firm line. We will veto any U.N. resolution to drop sanctions on Iraq," he said.

British forces joined the U.S.-led military alliance that drove Iraq's invasion force out of Kuwait in February. Major said President Saddam's weapons of mass destruction were being destroyed. "Of course he will lie and cheat — he is doing. But we will dog his footsteps. By whatever means it takes we will not allow Iraq to rebuild its nuclear, biological and chemical arsenal."

"So there should be no doubt.

Iraq cannot return to the international community of nations while Saddam Hussein remains in control," he said.

Meanwhile U.N. officials in Geneva said Friday the United Nations may tell its inspectors to investigate reports that an Iraqi store of weapons-grade uranium and a related nuclear site escaped U.S. bombing in the Gulf war.

Diplomats in Geneva, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United Nations was considering the move, but there was no official word.

U.S. officials said Thursday that an Iraqi defector told them about the alleged existence of the secret project for making enriched uranium that survived the war.

Under the March ceasefire in the Gulf war, U.N. inspection teams are travelling to Iraq to try to determine how many nuclear, chemical and biological weapons escaped allied bombers, and to destroy or render these stocks inoperable.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Saddam orders security men not to search homes alone

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Thursday ordered his security forces not to search people's homes without being accompanied by mayors or members of parliament. "President Saddam Hussein instructed the security apparatus not to search the homes of citizens without the presence of the mayor of the district or a member of the People's Assembly (parliament)," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. INA said Saddam issued the order after chairing a Baghdad meeting of his security chiefs. "This instruction comes in harmony with the course charted out by our wise leadership to lay down and consolidate the pillars of democracy," it says. The agency said Saddam's decision was also taken to prevent "some (foreign) agents and thugs from exploiting the role of the security authorities in entering homes of citizens and looting their property." It gave no further details.

White House disagrees with Schwarzkopf on war intelligence

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House distanced itself from Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf's complaints about intelligence during the Gulf war, saying President George Bush still feels it was excellent. The Desert Storm commander may have had "some minimal concerns," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, but "as far as we're concerned at the White House, it all worked and it worked very well." Schwarzkopf, basking in a hero's welcome before the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on Wednesday, testified that a lack of fresh, clear intelligence information plagued American military leaders in the Gulf war. "That was a void all of us felt existed out there," said Schwarzkopf, who was also testifying Thursday behind closed doors.

Sudanese leader calls on rebels to negotiate

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir called on the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south to lay down its arms and come to the negotiating table. Bashir said his government was prepared to talk to the SPLA at any time and without preconditions. Speaking in Khartoum at a ceremony marking the creation of a new province in the war-torn south, Bashir said the demands of southerners had been met. "The southerners have been demanding the federal system of government since 1947 but no government could grant them this until we came in," he said.

China supports ME arms control

BEIJING (AP) — China supports controlling arms sales to the Middle East and making it free from weapons of mass destruction, a foreign ministry spokesman said Thursday. China has said it will attend a U.S.-sponsored conference next month of the world's major powers to discuss limiting arms sales to the Middle East. "Those countries which have exported a great amount of arms to this region should, first and foremost, take a responsible attitude and seriously exercise self-restraint," spokesman Duan Jin said at a weekly briefing. He did not mention China's own sales to the region, which have included billions of dollars of weaponry to Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war and, more recently, sales of medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia and nuclear technology to Algeria. The United States has been trying to prevent delivery of surface-to-surface missiles to Syria and Pakistan. The State Department is sending Under Secretary Reginald Bartholomew to Beijing on Monday to warn the Chinese that the deliveries could have "grave consequences" for U.S.-China relations. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker warned China similarly in Congress on Wednesday. Duan said, "China always stands for a complete prohibition and thorough destruction of such weapons of mass destruction... and supports the effort to turn the Middle East into a nuclear-weapon-free zone and a zone free from weapons of mass destruction." Baker also said Wednesday that all five major arms suppliers to the region — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — would attend a conference next month in Paris to discuss slowing the Middle East arms race.

Dutch joining hunt for Kuwait reconstruction orders

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Netherlands has offered Kuwait one billion dollars in export credits in an attempt to lure reconstruction contracts from the war-ravaged oil emirate, the government said Thursday. The offer was conveyed by Yvonne Van Rooy, state secretary for foreign trade at a meeting with Kuwaiti government officials in Kuwait this week, according to Madeline Vincken, a spokeswoman for the Dutch Credit Insurance Corporation. The government-run agency insures Dutch foreign trade. Vincken said that a letter of intent to accept the loan guarantee offer has been signed by a Kuwaiti government finance official, whom she said did not name. Vincken added that the Dutch government hopes the credit will attract Kuwaiti orders for Dutch companies interested in rebuilding the emirate. According to Kuwait's estimates, it will cost around \$15 billion to repair damage done during the Gulf conflict by both the Iraqi occupiers and allied forces that drove out the Iraqis.

British police flown to Iraq-Turkey border over BBC deaths

LONDON (R) — British police have flown to the Iraq-Turkey border to investigate the disappearance of BBC journalist Rosanna Della Cava, the government said on Friday. "Two Scotland Yard detectives are now assisting in efforts to locate her," a foreign office spokeswoman said. The Daily Express newspaper said police were investigating whether the 31-year-old woman had been murdered. Royal Marines found the bodies of her husband Nick, 31, a television cameraman, and Charles Maxwell, 36, a soundman, in northern Iraq in May. The cause of their deaths has not yet been established. Rosanna is listed as missing. The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) last heard from the crew on March 23. It is believed they were killed shortly afterwards.

Iranian radicals seen outmanoeuvred by Rafsanjani

TEHRAN (R) — Islamic fundamentalists are on the retreat in Iran.

Western and Iranian analysts say they have been outmanoeuvred by a pragmatic leadership that wants to end the country's diplomatic isolation and restore its battered economy.

Radicals and moderates have been vying for influence since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution overthrew the Shah 12 years ago.

Now, analysts say, reformist President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani seems to have gained a decisive upper hand.

"The radicals are in decline, the tide has turned against them," a Western diplomat said. "I don't think any reversal is

possible except by a coup and bloodshed."

In recent weeks, Rafsanjani has marginalised his hardline rivals still further. In ceremonies last week marking the second anniversary of Khomeini's death he cleverly turned to his own advantage an event that could have been exploited by his foes.

On the eve of the event, Rafsanjani won a ringing endorsement as a "brilliant leader" from Khomeini's successor as Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He also appeared to make a truce with Khomeini's son Ahmad, often seen as a hardliner.

At present, all the talk is of supporting the government and prominent radicals like parlia-

ment Speaker Mehdi Karubi and former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi have been left to talk darkly about economic problems and the need for Iran to maintain its distance from the United States.

The parliament remains a bastion of radicalism, but that is expected to change with elections early next year that could prove a watershed in Iran's history since the revolution.

Diplomats forecast that Iranian voters, who were promised fair shares for all after the revolution but were faced instead with an eight-year war with Iran and growing economic hardships, will replace the diehards with deputies closer to Rafsanjani.

It is a sign of the times that

government supporters now refer openly to the hardliners, who once appeared to be the soul of the Iranian revolution, as "the opposition."

A wide range of Iranians, including many who have little time for Islamic clergymen like Rafsanjani, believe the president is their best hope for a brighter future.

They expect him to continue opening up Iran's foreign policy, a move that has already led to better relations with a number of European and Arab states.

A key element in his strategy would be the release of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon, a subject of renewed speculation in Tehran's press in recent days.

Some diplomats also believe a trial release of a few hostages could be not too far off though none are willing to say exactly when, given Iranian demands that Lebanese Shiite Muslims held by Israel should also be freed.

The release of the hostages, who include six Americans, could pave the way for Washington to release \$11 billion of impounded Iranian assets and strike Iran off its list of states supporting terrorism.

This is turn, if coupled with a victory for Rafsanjani supporters in the elections, could create the confidence needed for Western investment in Iran to help put the country's sickly economy on its

feet. Most analysts see the economy as the chief pitfall in Rafsanjani's path. They say the president, who has launched a \$120 billion five-year development plan, can get through the elections but does not have unlimited time to show results.

Iranian economists say many people are disappointed that the end of the war with Iraq nearly three years ago has still not made them better off.

On the contrary, the gap between rich and poor has widened. Unemployment is widespread. Salaries are low, inflation is put by some experts at 30 to 40 per cent in the last three months, and many factories are working at half capacity or less.

French radical party holds meeting in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — About 300 members of France's radical party were in Beirut for the opening on Friday of a two-day party congress, being held in Lebanon to show its support for efforts to end 16 years of civil war.

They arrived at Beirut airport shortly midnight aboard three chartered planes.

A small faction of the opposition Conservative Union for French Democracy (UDF), the party said it chose Lebanon for the congress to underline France's "moral obligations" to a country it ruled from 1920-1941 under a League of Nations mandate.

PRF General Secretary Aymeri De Montesquieu said representatives of Lebanon's various religious and political factions would take part in the conference.

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — A saintly whose personal attacks on Israel's prime minister drew a diplomatic protest, renewed his war last week. He called Yitzhak Shamir an assassin who will end up "in the trash bin of history."

The attacks, along with criticism of Shamir's stand on Middle East peace efforts, have created tension between the Jewish state and the only Arab country at peace with it. Israel and Egypt signed a U.S.-brokered peace treaty in 1979.

"I described Shamir as a butcher and for this I apologise to butchers, because theirs is a respectable profession," Mahmoud El Saadani wrote in the government-owned weekly Al-Mussawar.

"The true description of Shamir is assassin. The differ-

ence between assassin and butcher is like the difference between heaven and earth. The butcher slaughters animals for people to eat, gain strength and survive. But the assassin slaughters humans to reduce them to dust."

The writings of El Saadani, known for a sharp tongue, appear regularly in Al-Mussawar.

Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Doweik protested to Egypt's foreign ministry last week over an article by El Saadani in the May 24 Al-Mussawar that called Shamir a "killer dwarf."

Egyptian diplomatic sources said Doweik was told that President Hosni Mubarak's government does not condone such personal attacks but cannot interfere with press freedom.

Mohammad Bassiouny,

Egypt's ambassador to Israel, took exception to the "killer dwarf" epithet in an Israeli radio interview Tuesday.

"This is not the view of the Egyptian government. This is not the policy of the Egyptian government," he said. "We are against it. But it does not mean we will not express our views about the (Shamir) policy."

Bassiouny also denied an Israeli newspaper report that Cairo was considering his recall to express displeasure at Israeli policies.

In remarks to reporters Monday night, Shamir criticised Egypt for failing to foster a warmer relationship with Israel. He said the 1979 treaty should have been "the beginning" of friendly ties and not "the end of the process."

In the trash bin of history

Egyptian officials uphold the treaty but concede that bilateral ties lack warmth. Boutros Ghali, deputy premier for foreign relations, has characterised the relationship as "cold peace."

Egyptian officials contend that reasons for this include Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, a seven-year Israel-Egypt border dispute settled in 1989 and Israel's policies on Middle East peace efforts.

Twice since he took office on May 20, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa accused Israel of poisoning U.S.-led peace efforts by continuing to build settlements in occupied Gaza and West Bank.

But Moussa had some praise for Shamir. He described as "positive" and "a step in the right direction" a statement by

the Israeli leader that the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza is negotiable. Previously Shamir had said Israel would never relinquish them.

In Wednesday's magazine article, El Saadani wrote: "Shamir now stands alone in the world peace to the Arab region, claiming a greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates that may well extend in the future from the Gulf to the (Atlantic) Ocean."

"Listen," wrote Shamir, "I apologise to all animals, insects and beasts for having likened some of them to you. Animals and insects do not lie, but you do. ... However, right eventually will prevail over your manipulations ... and you will end up in the trash bin of history."

Palestinians becoming pessimistic over uprising's shortcomings

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians are questioning the 42-month-old intifada is leading. Proposals for peace with Israel are printed in the Arab press. Even in refugee camps, residents dare to argue with leaders of the uprising.

The clamour does not necessarily add up to defiance of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Some of it even seems orchestrated by the PLO. But no one doubts a new mood is growing in the occupied territories and Arab East Jerusalem.

"There is political frustration in the street and we are now talking about reassessing the intifada," noted Said Kanaan, a well-known supporter of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction in the West Bank.

It's no wonder Palestinians are frustrated. Despite the long uprising, Israel's hold on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is firm. PLO backing for Iraq in the Gulf war led only to despair. The "window of opportunity" seen by U.S. officials after the war seems to be closing rapidly amid old procedural disputes. Weariness at the uprising is no longer silent.

In East Jerusalem, merchants who have long grumbled over the morning-only shop hours ordered by uprising leaders 3½ years ago are now loudly debating the issue. They contend the short work days are hurting Palestinians more than Israel.

The Arab press is full of articles decrying violence against Jews, the uprising's young street toughs. There are charges that many of the Palestinians killed because they are suspected of

collaborating with Israel are innocent.

In the West Bank's Balata Refugee Camp, a middle-aged woman known as Umm Ibrahim recently defied a young uprising activist who tried to quiet her complaints to a reporter about the PLO's backing for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The woman, who said she has 8 years old when her family fled to Balata in 1948, told the young man she had a right to speak out. "Saddam Hussein destroyed us," she insisted.

PLO supporters, aware of the growing frustration, have made subtle changes. Leaflets have announced all-day shop hours once or twice a month. Restaurants that used to dutifully close early, losing most of their business, are now open into the evening.

A series of forums allowing citizens to speak out about the uprising and the Middle East

peace process also have been organised in East Jerusalem.

Hasan El Khatib, a Palestinian professor regarded as a leading PLO supporter, wrote in the Arabic daily Al-Quds that a dialogue was needed to "fortify the democratic base" of the uprising.

"The idea of discussion and dialogue is to narrow the gap between the masses and the leaders," Al Khatib explained in an interview.

The forums have not only produced discussion about uprising tactics, but questions about the wisdom of Palestinian leaders meeting with Secretary of State James Baker during his peace shuttles to the Middle East.

Twice in the past month, the pro-PLO daily Al-Fajr has printed new peace proposals that backed electing Palestinians from the territories to negotiate with Israel, an Israeli idea meant to cut the PLO out of peace talks. One plan also urged that peo-

ple in the occupied territories be given more say in the PLO, whose leadership is dominated by Palestinians from outside.

Since the two authors of the peace plans are backers of Yasser Arafat's Fatah, it was uncertain whether they were acting on their own or "floating" ideas for the PLO.

This week, the idea of a new Palestinian political party with no ties to the PLO also was raised. But Palestinians were sceptical about who was behind the new party since it was reported in the Israeli but not the Arab press.

Some Israeli reports have suggested the Palestinian dissatisfaction shows the intifada is disintegrating.

But "we are only discovering we've made mistakes," said Kanaan, the pro-Fatah leader.

"We are not celebrating the death of the intifada if we talk about some negative things," said Salaymeh.

U.N. official says Ethiopia keen to help on famine relief

ADDIS ABABA (R) — A top United Nations relief official said on Thursday Ethiopia's new authorities were anxious to get famine relief flowing again to the country's starving millions.

But World Food Programme (WFP) head James Ingram, speaking after a two-day visit to Addis Ababa, said he feared that donor nations would not respond quickly enough to meet the country's massive needs.

Ingram, touring the region with officials from other relief agencies, said leaders of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) assured him that famine relief would get top priority.

"I have dealt with governments in scores of countries and I have never experienced a more open discussion or greater willingness ... to give priority to the humanitarian needs of the country," he told a news conference before

flying to Kenya. Ingram said interim President Meles Zenawi and other EPRDF officials told him that relief officials and "convoys" would get security and access to wherever they needed to go.

Famine relief routes to almost eight million people now threatened with starvation in Ethiopia have been closed since late May, when the EPRDF stormed Addis Ababa and ousted the remnants of the government of now-exiled Marxist ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Food aid is just beginning to move again as the EPRDF extends its control across the country.

Ingram said it was critical to get the ports of Asab and Massawa, now in the hands of another former rebel group, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), functioning at full capacity and to find enough trucks to move the food.

He said the international community had pledged only half of the 1.4 million tonnes of food needed this year in Ethiopia and needs would probably rise.

He said he was optimistic that enough food would eventually arrive, but was "worried that they (the donors) won't respond quickly enough."

He said a main area of concern was drought-stricken Harargeh and Ogaden in eastern Ethiopia where 1.5 million people, including Somali refugees and Ethiopians returned after being refugees in Somalia, were at risk.

The United Nations has made no deliveries to the area for at least three weeks. Ingram said a first convoy of 30 trucks would leave for camps near the Somali border in Harargeh on Friday.

Rabbi's remarks trigger row in Israel over immigrants

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's ultra-religious immigration minister raised a storm on Thursday after charging that Kibbutz collective settlements led immigrants to crime.

The charges by Yitzhak Peretz, a controversial rabbi who also said kibbutzes stripped immigrants of Judaism, outraged many among Israel's secular majority.

The row knocked Middle East peace efforts off newspaper front pages and monopolised radio talk shows.

"Minister Peretz is truly an anti-semitic, a hater of Israel and

an incorrigible racist," said Yossi Sarid, the darling of Israel's left wing in parliament.

The accusations reawakened an old quarrel between Kibbutz members, who as farmers and fighters helped shape the Jewish state, and ultra-orthodox leaders who view them as loose-living and hostile to religion.

Peretz, responsible for the integration of some 14,000 black Jews from Ethiopia airlifted to Israel last month, assailed the independent Jewish agency that brought them to Israel because it temporarily housed 700 of them

on kibbutzes.

In a television debate with a kibbutz leader on Wednesday night, Peretz warned against stripping Ethiopians of their religious traditions as he said had happened when his generation arrived from Morocco 40 years ago.

He said Israeli jails were full of such people.

"I will not be silent nor rest until this evil ... is lifted," said the bearded Peretz.

Callers rushed to complain to radio stations and leftist politicians demanded his dismissal.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the opposition Labour Party told Israel radio: "This outburst of deep hatred from a rabbi and cabinet minister in Israel points to a most serious phenomenon — a real effort to tear at the social fabric of Israel."

Peretz, 53, the lone representative of his party in the Knesset and in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's coalition government, has stirred public fury many times before. He once blamed a bus-train crash that killed 22 children on desecration of the Jewish Sabbath.

He said the international community had pledged only half of the 1.4 million tonnes of food needed this year in Ethiopia and needs would probably rise.

He said he was optimistic that enough food would eventually arrive, but was "worried that they (the donors) won't respond quickly enough."

He said a main area of concern was drought-stricken Harargeh and Ogaden in eastern Ethiopia where 1.5 million people, including Somali refugees and Ethiopians returned after being refugees in Somalia, were at risk.

JORDAN TELEVISION

637440.
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
18:00 News in French
19:15 Camel de Nites
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Bill Cosby Show
21:00 Encounter
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Desperado Badland Justice"

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:33 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
19:38 Maghrib
20:10 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swaidan, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440

637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 17 / 31
Agaba 23 / 37
Deserts 18 / 34
Jordan Valley 21 / 37

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Agaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ayman Abdul Jabbar 614222
Dr. Fakhri Abu Tayeh 853880
Dr. Mohammed Al Arad 741391
Dr. Arif Al Ashhab 602507
Fines pharmacy 661912
Fines pharmacy 775336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Nairokh pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637668
JERUSALEM:
Dr. Ali Omar (—)
Dr. Al Shara' pharmacy (775825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Al Sharabati (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 1211
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 10230
Overseas Calls 891611
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 08-53200
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 818131/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akshel Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Falestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 6691207
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Badli, Al-Muhajreen 775111/2
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980732
JERUSALEM:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:15 New Delhi (RJ)
10:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Damascus (RJ)
11:45 Agaba (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:30 Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 Saray (TY)
17:50 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
22:00 Paris, Damascus (AP)
22:45 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

08:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Tripoli (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
13:45 Tripoli (RJ)
16:30 Jeddah (RJ)
20:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15 Cairo (RJ)

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1991 3

Princess Zein patronises yearly race

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein Friday patronised on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor the yearly running contest organised by the Woman Sport Club in cooperation with the Intermediate University College.

As soon as Princess Zein, gave the start signal, 300 runners started a 2.5 kilometre running race, beginning from the Intermediate University College and ending at the same place.

At the end of the race, Princess Zein handed cups and medals to winners.

Meeting to discuss environmental issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Minister of Water and Irrigation Sa'd Hayel Al Srouf, the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution holds its second environmental meeting in Mafrqa Sunday, June 16. Addressing the meeting will be society President Ahmad Obaidat, who will deliver the opening address.

Participants at the meetings will discuss three working papers on Ukhaidir dumping site, the use of treated waste water in agricultural projects and plastic and solid residues in Mafrqa. Participants will also watch documentaries on environmental issues.

At the end of the meetings participants are expected to come up with specific recommendations designed to protect the environment.

Italy grants Jordan \$55m for developmental projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Italian government has decided to allocate \$55 million to Jordan, to be provided in the form of technical assistance to the country, in order to help carry out development projects. Minister of Planning Khalid Amin Abdallah announced Thursday.

The minister, who is leading a Jordanian team at talks with the Italian government to discuss aid to Jordan, said in a statement that the Italians had agreed to finance the new Karak Hospital, whose infrastructure is now underway, a Ministry of Education printing school, which would open its doors for students in the 1992-93 scholastic year, and a training programme in high voltage power installation and distribution, undertaken by the Polytechnic School in Amman.

In addition, agreement was reached, between the two sides, on Italy's financial support for 14 projects undertaken by the University of Jordan, Muta University, Jordan University of Science and Technology, the Royal Scientific Society, the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, the Near East Foundation, the Department of Antiquities and other urgent schemes to be added by the Jordanian government to the Italian-Jordanian technical and financial protocol for 1991-1993, according to Dr. Abdallah.

He said other projects to have financial assistance under this agreement included a \$7.5 million tomato paste factory in Mafrqa. The amount will come in the form of a soft loan to the Jordanian government.

"The Italian government has displayed clear understanding of Jordan's pressing needs under the present difficult circumstances, and the talks held with the Italian side were fruitful and constructive," Dr. Abdallah said. He said he had reviewed with the Italian side various projects in which the Italian government could participate.

In addition to this agreement, he said, the Italian government has given its consent to provide Jordan with \$26 million worth of food supplies, of which \$15 million will be used to provide rice to the Ministry of Supply and the rest for wheat and flour.

The food aid would be forthcoming from now and until the end of 1991, with the more aid planned for the coming year, the minister noted.

The minister voiced Jordan's deep appreciation of Italy's assistance and lauded the strong ties binding the two countries.



GERMAN DELEGATION VISITS JORDANIAN FORESTS: Jordanian forestry was over the weekend on the agenda of the German delegation which came for bilateral consultation to Jordan. Accompanied by the members of the Forestry Department, the German Embassy, the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), forestry project Mr. Lipman and Mr. von Anlock visited one of the most magnificent forestry resource of Jordan, which is the Goethe forest near Duma in Tafila district. This forest stretches for about 10 kilometres along the higher escarpment down to the Wadi Araba. It is characterised by Junipers (Juniperus phoenicea), oaks (Quercus calliprinos), pistachios (Pistacia atlantica) and some exceptional exemplars of cypresses (Cypripedium macrocarpa) whose age is estimated at 500-800 years. The careful work of the local forest officers helped to preserve this valuable patrimony, which is declared as a natural park, and whose beauty attracts the nature-loving tourists. Therefore the duty of coming generations of forestry will encompass the preservation of the forest and its natural resources which will also ensure a safe habitat for numerous birds.



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Al Saraireh (right) Thursday signs the joint declaration of the two-day talks he had with his Syrian counterpart Yousef Ahmad (Petra photo)

Jordanian-Syrian joint companies endorse budgets, plans for 1991

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Syrian land and maritime transport companies have announced plans for expansion and increased operations in light of revenues and profits made in the past year, and have approved budgets and endorsed new plans of actions following two days of meetings in Amman.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran voiced the Jordanian government's deep satisfaction with the progress of the work of the two joint companies after bearing a report on their operations in the past year and the profits they made.

"The Jordanian government is determined to bolster scopes of cooperation between Syria and Jordan and to remove all obstacles that could impede the progress of the two companies," said the prime minister at a meeting in his office with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Al Saraireh and his Syrian counterpart Yousef Ahmad. The two ministers co-chaired the general assembly meetings of both companies.

The two ministers concluded the talks by signing minutes of the deliberations covering plans for the future and reviewing the past year's operations and administrative and financial reports.

Mr. Saraireh said in a statement, after the signing ceremony, that the maritime company last year made a net profit of 33.5 million Syrian pounds and that the general assembly had decided to purchase a third cargo vessel to boost the company's operations. The new vessel, he said in his statement to Jordan Television, will be put in operation between Aqaba Port and ports in the Far East. The cost of purchasing the ship will be covered by the company's last year reserves.

The general assembly has approved the 1990 accounts and endorsed the budget for 1991. It also gave its consent to the company's operations during 1991 to boost transport between Jordan and Syria, the minister noted.

Referring to the joint land transport company, Mr. Saraireh said that the assembly had approved the operational plans

Prince Hassan calls on Jordanians to share burden of democracy, building country

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday stressed the importance of sincere cooperation and self-reliance to alleviate the burden shouldered by His Majesty King Hussein and pursue the march he has charted for building Jordan.

In his inaugural speech at Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Aqaba, Prince Hassan called for safeguarding and protecting democracy in Jordan through responsible actions and freedoms.

He noted the importance of social work, which is based on thorough studies and planning which are prerequisites for making social voluntary work a success.

He praised the achievements made by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (OAF) in the fields of mother and child care, and rehabilitation of women to be active members in their community.

Prince Hassan called for using OAF experiences in collecting data, through field work, emphasising in this regard the importance of cooperation between social centres and the institutions concerned.

The Crown Prince said social service centres and voluntary societies should provide outstanding services, capable of yielding positive results, in order to qualify for receiving support from concerned international organisations.

Also addressing the audience was Her Royal Highness Princess Basma who said the new centre was the outcome of fruitful cooperation between OAF and official



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan listens to a speech during his inauguration Thursday of Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Aqaba

institutions and non-government organisations (NGOs).

Princess Basma voiced appreciation to these institutions, NGOs, women groups and youth organisations in Aqaba district for their support and fruitful cooperation.

She lauded the efforts of all those involved in the various stages of establishing the centre saying that their spirit "ignites hope in our souls and strengthens our resolve to extend such centres to two other locations in the district, namely Qawairah and Disi."

Aqaba district Governor Kofat Al Majali reviewed the fund's achievements in Aqaba district and praised its role in providing services for women and children.

Mr. Majali said the fund's programmes were aimed at developing local community and providing help to the needy.

Prince Hassan toured an exhibition, held by the OAF at the Aqaba branch, and participated in the celebrations organised by Maan and Aqaba youth troupes for the King's recovery.

The opening ceremony was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Lower House of Parliament member Abdul Karim Kabaruti, Mutha University President Awad Kheifat and senior officials.

Industrialists reject blame for pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to a wide-scale campaign directed against factories and various industries allegedly responsible for the contamination of the water used for irrigating farmlands in the Jordan Valley, the Amman Chamber of Industry has published a statement throwing light on the whole issue and defending the industrialists' point of view.

The statement said that the Jordanian industries, which have geared up to boost the national economy in the wake of the Gulf crisis that caused severe losses to the Kingdom, were by no means responsible for the polluted water which damaged the crops in the valley.

To prove its point, the Amman Chamber of Industry provided the following points:

1. The part of the Zarqa River where most of the factories are concentrated has been totally dry after closing the Ein Ghazal waste water treatment plant in 1985. The water in the river flows beyond the Sukhneb district towards the King Talal dam after flowing first into the Khirbet Al Samra waste water treatment plant. The stretch beyond Sukhneb has no factories at all.
2. Studies have revealed that the waste water coming from the Amman and Zarqa factories amount to 3,600 cubic metres a day, but only 1,000 cubic metres daily reach the Khirbet Al Samra plant because the rest is recycled for agriculture and dumped in areas other than the river.
3. Nearly 90,000 cubic metres of treated water flow out of Khirbet Al Samra daily. This is nearly 40 per cent of the dam's annual capacity. The studies showed that water from factories constitute only one per cent of the total amount arriving at the Khirbet Al Samra. Furthermore, waste water from homes, flowing towards Khirbet Al Samra, is estimated at 100,000 cubic metres a day and this amount is growing every day.
4. Over the past four years the accumulating water in the King Talal reservoir was continually used for irrigating farmlands in the valley. The present capacity of the reservoir has dropped to nearly 35 million cubic metres, down from nearly 70 million in 1987. This means further concentration of pollutants in the dam's water going to the valley.
5. Studies have revealed the presence of numerous pollutants in the soil, like chlorine, sodium, boron, bicarbonate, in addition to salinity, and many of these do not come from factories.
6. Reports about the damages to the crops in the central Jordan Valley region proved that the damage was not caused by the factories as the affected crops were not irrigated by the dam's water.
7. The national industries contribute to 21 per cent of the gross national product (GNP), employing 80,000 workers, and industrial exports account for nearly 95 per cent of the total national exports, bringing in nearly JD 600 million in 1990. A total of 487 commodities are sold to 66 countries around the world bringing in revenues for the treasury.

The statement said that the factories continue to take precautions against pollution and various factories have installed water treatment equipment because they are determined to go on providing services to the nation.



UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN STUDENTS GRADUATE: The University of Jordan has turned out the 26th batch of graduates at a ceremony held at Al Hussein Youth City and attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other dignitaries. University President Mahmoud Al Samra, who delivered an address at the ceremony, distributed the degree and diplomas to the 3,709 students who completed their courses and received their Bachelor, Masters and Doctors degrees.

In his address, Dr. Samra pledged that the University of Jordan would continue to exert strenuous efforts in order to cope with the growing needs of the country and to catch up with the technological and scientific developments in the world. Dr. Samra pledged that the University of Jordan would continue to upgrade its educational system in order to cater to the needs of the present, modern age, and the requirements of the future.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guillot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showq Shoukni, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzaq at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Palestinian heritage exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.

FILMS

- ★ "The Avantgarde films of the Twenties", introduced by Mr. Sami Kamal, at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

The Arab Cultural Society invites you to a panel discussion entitled *The Role of Media From the Gulf Crisis to Meeting Future Challenges* Participating in the discussion

Rami Khoury and Osama Al-Sharif at the Arab Cultural Society (Al Raid Al Arabi School) Overlooking King Abdullah Gardens. Sunday June 16, 1991 at 6:00 p.m.

King

(Continued from Page 1) from the King of Spain, the Algerian, Tunisian and Lebanese presidents expressing their best wishes for the King's continued health and happiness.

The King also received cables of good wishes from King Hassan II of Morocco, King Carl Gustav of Sweden, Austrian Prime Minister John Major, Secretary-General of the Arab Cooperation Council Hisham Nammar and Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat.

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY RISHA GAS POWER STATION ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETENDERING TENDER NO. 53/89 GENERATOR TRANSFORMERS

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Tender Document, No. 53/89 is made again available for purchase as of 15 June 1991.

The Tender consists of Manufacturing and Supply of two (2) Generator Transformers 11/132 K.V 45 MVA. The Supplier shall provide supervision during Erection and Commissioning.

Sealed Tenders shall be submitted to the Secretary of JEA Tendering Committee before 10.00 a.m. Amman Time 30 July 1991 at the JEA offices in Amman.

Tender Documents are available at the address given below for a non-refundable fee of 50 payable to JEA for each set of the Tender Documents.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Jabal Amman — 7th Circle
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Amman — Jordan
Telex: 21259
Fax: No. 818336

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Sun	CY 403	19:15 — 21:00	CY

LARNACA-AMMAN			
Frequency	Flight No.	Dep. Arr.	Class
Tue/Thu	CY 402	18:50 — 20:15	CY
Sun	CY 402	17:00 — 18:30	CY

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Jordan Times

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Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

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U.S.' turn to act

NOW THAT Washington has decided to put its feet down and insist that the Palestinians have the right to choose their own representatives in any projected peace talks, the U.S. is called upon to continue this momentum of standing up to Tel Aviv by stressing the call for holding a peace conference on terms that are recognised by the international community. To be sure, the Arab side is not concerned with marginal issues or procedural matters for their own sake but rather as a guarantee that the anticipated negotiations on the Arab-Israeli conflict will proceed in earnest and on the basis of international legitimacy. It is therefore incorrect to depict Arab and international insistence on an effective U.N. role in any peace parley as mere trivia that would add nothing and subtract nothing in the final analysis. Long-held Arab suspicions and beliefs that Israel is not yet convinced of trading land for peace in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolution 242 are an important factor prompting the Arab parties to insist on firm guarantees that the U.N. will be there to promote its own resolutions and implement them.

As the U.S. is on record as subscribing to the principle of exchanging territory for peace as a foundation for any peace talks in the Middle East, Washington is called upon to offer the Arab parties certain assurances that negotiations will produce just that result. Having now stood up against the latest Israeli intransigence by rejecting point blank Tel Aviv's demand that it should okay the membership of the Palestinian delegation, it would seem proper that the Americans should also call into question additional Israeli demands and conditions. This way the Arabs will gain more confidence in the possibility of producing real results — something which will encourage them to aid and abet the peace process with all the vigour that is necessary for the occasion.

In this context, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's talks with his Israeli counterpart David Levy Thursday were expected to produce more tangible results to advance the stalling peace process. But Levy has not exactly earned the reputation of being the man to prevail over the extremists among his Likud Party or the person to strengthen the hands of the sensible forces within his party's ranks. What remains to be seen though is whether President George Bush's scheduled talks with Levy can offer a last-ditch opportunity to talk sense into the Israeli side. It has to be noted that the growing split among the Likud ranks on how to proceed with the peace process may offer a window of opportunity to strengthen the hands of those Israelis who are willing to talk and explore the possibilities of real peace in the area. President Bush's talks with Levy therefore can go a long way to show whether this opportunity actually exists or it is just another desert mirage in the making for all to see.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordanian dailies on Friday congratulated His Majesty King Hussein on his recovery from illness and wished him continued health and happiness. Al Ra'i for its part said that the King used the occasion to thank his people for their allegiance, and also to remind them of the need to exert further efforts to protect their constitution and to work in the spirit of the National Charter and democracy. The paper said the King who was overwhelmed by the love and affection of his citizens wanted his people to share in shouldering the burden by closely abiding by the constitution and the National Charter if they are to achieve democracy. It said that the march to democracy requires from all Jordanians further efforts and further sacrifices and further response to the pressing needs of the present era. The paper said that the Jordanian family is overjoyed because its leader is now in excellent health and ready to resume the march with his people; and noted that national unity was an essential factor for the continued march to ensure a better future for the country. The paper said that the great affection displayed by the people towards their ruler can be translated into real action characterised by courageous efforts and sincere endeavours to attain the aspired goals.

A columnist in Al Dustour Arabic daily says that the numerous political issues which could be dealt with by the political parties under the umbrella of the National Charter should not prompt politicians to ignore the pressing internal issues which had plagued the country for so long. Mohammad Dawood says that socio-economic problems require serious efforts on the part of the politicians and parliament members, because Jordanian citizens are most concerned over these issues at present. The writer says that citizens psychological and material stability are important factors which can contribute to the march towards democracy. The formation of the state's institutions, reform of the education system and dealing with pollution and unemployment are among the most serious topics which require solutions by the political parties, Dawood notes. For this reason, he says, one can expect cooperation among the parties and parliament members in benefiting from past experiences and in forging ahead with greater confidence to lay the ground for a strong political, social and economic base for Jordan.

View From Amman

The National Charter

UNIQUE among most of the developing nations, Jordan has, since its establishment in 1921, maintained the idea of adhering to a parliamentary, participatory system of government. And while the Jordanian experiment in socio-economic and political development may have faltered, facing some reversals at certain moments of its history, it has stuck to the liberal tradition, never allowing repression or the temptation to institute a tyranny to take the upper hand. Even in the shadowy period of the late 1950s and 1960s when the powers of the executive branch expanded, severe repression was never a permanent feature of Jordan's political life. No one disappeared, and the regime maintained, one way or another, a certain level of dialogue with the opposition. Opposition members were rehabilitated and some were later co-opted to assume very high office in government. If anything can describe Jordan's experience in political life over the past seventy years, it is centrism and moderation. Both King Abdullah, 1921-1951, and King Hussein 1953 to the present adhered to these principles.

It is necessary to recall these facts not only as a background to the approval of the National Charter on June 9, 1991, but to remind ourselves, the citizens of this land, of the extent to which we have been an island of sanity in a virtually insane region where neither the soul, the brain nor the body of man are respected. For sure, we have made mistakes and in some cases there may have been excesses by one over zealous official or another, yet the trend, the atmosphere, has always been healthy. Even when the area was caught in the grips of severe crises: 1956, 1967, 1970, 1973, 1990, people breathed freely, moved in and out freely, traded freely and demanded a lot from their government.

Three times since 1948, the country was host to large numbers of refugees: 1948, 1967 and 1990. And yet these were welcomed

rehabilitated, became citizens and partners in whatever Jordan had to offer.

It is necessary to recall these facts not in pride but in humility to remind ourselves of the small-but blessings that make life more tolerable and worthy. Surely we have our poor, and in his address before the national congress King Hussein remembered them and exhorted the nation to work harder. And just as surely we have other problems too; yet what makes Jordan unique is the style with which it tackles these problems. Neither bedouin nor refugee was ever forced to settle or to do anything against his or her will. People laboured and traded and the government extended its hand to the private sector to develop its economy. The status of women was elevated, hand work became more worthy and other new values were introduced without force. And debate was always maintained between people and regime; sometimes formal and sometimes informal. Some institutions, particularly in the political realm, were retarded at certain times, yet it was never the intention to institute tyranny.

I listened with a certain sense of pride as our King said before the charter delegates, "...we resumed the democratic process at a difficult time..." an understatement! When did Jordan have anything but a difficult time either political, military, economic or a combination of the three. Perhaps it is this adversity that has sharpened our sense of modest accomplishment and survival. The King earlier also said "...we take this step under the umbrella of a national consensus that the political process of parliamentary democracy is irreversible..."

I do hope that our people, now in the process of dialoguing with themselves, will appreciate the historic significance of the process we are currently undergoing. Not only for ourselves but for those around us as well as for the Third World at large; Israel in

particular, with its archaic tyrannical system of repression, disguised as a democracy. No democracy is true to its spirit if it only the privilege of the masters. Such is only a mockery, the travesty of the spirit of democracy for does not the killer who kills something in the act of murder? It is hoped that the archaic tyrannical systems in our area also disguised as states, will look deep into the injustice they are committing against themselves and their people.

These and others in the world at large should look into opening up their societies to the rational approach in decision-making. The spirit of the charter is a new social contract between the people and their government on the one hand and among the people themselves, now seemingly fragmented into a plethora of groups. Chairman of the charter drafting committee, Senator Ahmad Obeidat, was correct when he stated in his address that "...we are aware that the hallmarks of a sound society are respect for human rights and the rule of reason..."

The charter then is not only an attempt to broaden the base of the regime to include even the opposition but to introduce a process of dialogue in a rational manner that carries with it respect for the opinions of others however disagreeable these may seem. This is an exceedingly important thought at this juncture in Jordan's history, what with the disarray and confusion of the ranks of the left and the nationalist elements and the total absence of a viable Jordanian centre leaving only the right as the only organised political power in the field. It is hoped that the right and the Islamists will exercise the same restraint and respect accorded to them by the regime over the past few decades. Perhaps it was again Jordan alone that maintained a healthy dialogue with its right. In this modern age truly no one has a monopoly over the truth.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's treatment for irregular heart-beat and, the National Charter were on top of the list of issues tackled by the Jordanian press in the past week. But the Middle East, the inhuman treatment of Palestinians and Jordanians in Kuwait along with some local issues were also covered. All Jordanian dailies reported various images of popular reaction to the King's indisposition, the convergence of thousands of citizens on the King Hussein Medical City to visit the King and the various cables wishing the King speedy recovery.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily reviewed the past events in the Middle East in general and Jordan in particular paying tribute to King Hussein's bold and national stand in confronting the hardships and dealing with the problems and the challenges facing the Arab Nation. Tareq Masarweh noted that Jordan's celebrations on Army Day and the endorsement of the National Charter brought about further stress on the King who had to shake hands with thousands of people and address his nation. The writer, like all other columnists in the daily press, wished the King speedy recovery, continued health and happiness. Another columnist noted that King Hussein has never relented and never spared a moment when certain tasks had to be accomplished. Columnist Jawad, writing in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the Palestine question, inter-Arab affairs and domestic issues are always on the mind of the leader who did not even rest while in hospital, but continued to involve himself in his countrymen's affairs.

The National Charter

The National Charter was not drawn up by 60 members of the Royal Commission entrusted with the task, but rather by the whole people because the commission represented all sectors, and for this reason it was not a surprise to any body that the charter was endorsed unanimously, said Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

The charter, the writer noted, was a comprehensive document which took into account various issues of concern to the public, but it is a document that is liable to change and amendment with the passage of time and in the light of developments and the democratic changes in society.

Since the National Charter has now opened the door for political parties to be formed, the Jordanian public will be directing its attention to the role these parties would play in dealing with chronic issues plaguing the Kingdom, said Hussein Taha Mahadin, a guest columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily. The Jordanian citizens are waiting to see whether the new parties would get down to business to deal with such questions as hunger and unemployment, the country's mounting foreign debts in addition to the problems of the environment, the local industry and agriculture, the writer noted.

Taher Al Udwan who writes for Sawt Al Shaab said that the Lower House of Parliament, many of whose members were

involved in drawing up the National Charter, should be prepared now to issue legislations that would open the way for political parties and the law of publication. The writer said what the Jordanians want now is a translation of the democratic principles included in the charter into practice and into applicable laws.

A columnist for Al Ra'i reminded his readers that the National Charter served as a basis for democracy to be founded on the principles of dialogue and brotherly cooperation and harmony. Khaled Mahadin noted that no single group or political party should be allowed to exercise any form of terrorism or intimidation against other groups, and internal feuds can only cause a great loss to all parties. The writer criticised those groups which tend to issue slanderous statements or level harmful accusations against others, and said they only tend to undermine democracy.

As Parliament is making ready for an extraordinary session expected after Eid Al Adha, columnists have been making calls for real action on the part of deputies to deal with pressing issues.

Abdullah Al Malki who writes for Al Dustour said enactment of laws to tackle important situations are taking years to be completed; and the country is left to suffer. He demanded in particular that draft laws on Jordanian companies and banks be immediately approved so that investments and economic projects and businessmen can all move in the right direction and benefit the country.

Another columnist in Al Dustour went a step further and demanded to know what Parliament has achieved in the past two years of its existence. Moussa Al Abdallat said that the Jordanian citizens would like to inquire from the deputies about their achievements specially in handling financial and administrative corruption, in dealing with the problem of unemployment, the rise in the level of poverty and the low level of health services. He said that the Jordanian citizens had attached great hopes on the parliament members who sufficed themselves with slogans and by announcing ambitious programmes that were never implemented.

At least two noted columnists in Al Ra'i and Al Dustour launched strong attacks on Jordan Television for its failure to rise to the needs of the public and for poor performance. Jordan Television used to rival those of Lebanon, Syria and Israel because it had presented objective and meaningful programmes offering education, news and entertainment at the same time, but Jordan Television has retrogressed to such a degree that Jordanians feel forced to turn to Israeli television, said Fahd Al Fanek. Writing in Al Ra'i, Fanek said that thanks to pressure on the part of a number of parliament members Jordan Television has been transformed from a means to provide education and entertainment into a tool to offer only religious or semi-religious programmes causing dismay and frustration among the viewers. We are not de-

manding that religious programmes be cancelled, said the writer, but rather that television rise to the standard of the people's taste.

Moussa Kilani who writes for Al Dustour admitted that Jordan Television management was constantly facing pressure from parliament members and other groups. But he said instead of focusing public attention on questions of concern to the majority of the public like health, social and economic issues, Jordan Television had been reverting to programmes which have no taste or meaning. The writer criticised the Hebrew language section which, he said, had never presented any meaningful analysis to the Jewish viewers that could influence the Jewish society; and, noted that the standard of the language presented and those who present the programmes which he said had won the mockery of the Israeli media and viewers.

Several columnists in the daily papers discussed the ordeal of the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in Kuwait, and demanded that the injustice being practised against them be halted. People arriving in Jordan from Kuwait speak of atrocities being committed against the Palestinian and Jordanian citizens despite constant criticism on the part of international organisations, said Abdul Rahim Omar in Al Ra'i.

The writer said that a protest march held in Amman against such atrocities was responded to in Kuwait by stepping up the inhuman treatment of the defenceless expatriates. Writing in Al Dustour, Mohammad Kawash said while the Israelis were celebrating their national anniversary by raiding Palestinian refugees camps in Lebanon, the Kuwaitis were celebrating the liberation of their country from Iraqi occupation by committing despicable crimes against the Palestinians and Jordanians living in the emirate. The writer noted that the Kuwaitis have set up concentration camps for the Palestinian and Jordanian citizens in violation of all human rights and other laws and principles, at a time when the Israelis pursue their repression in Palestine.

The Arab-Israeli question and Israel's intransigence, backed by the United States are covered extensively in the local press. Writing in Al Ra'i Bader Abdul Haq said that Israel has now come up with a new condition: A joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, with Israel approving its members. This condition is clearly intended to exclude those that could be in contact with the PLO from any peace negotiations, said Abdul Haq. The further away the Palestinians stay from the negotiating table, the better for Israel because their rights would not be discussed, as the Israelis hope said the writer.

Israel is using the Palestinian representation question as a bargaining chip in dealing with the U.S. initiative, said Abdul Rahim Omar in Al Ra'i daily. He said that although the PLO could, if it wanted, coordinate its stand with Jordan, it is not a matter that should stop the peace process by trying to emphasise the Palestinians and the Jordanians.

Algeria's quest for identity

By Tahar Ben Jelloun

THE EMERGENCE of Islamic movements on the North African political scene over the past few years could not have been foreseen by historians. In Morocco, for example, society has never been separated from religion; there have always been sects and brotherhoods to further the study of sacred texts, sometimes engaging in mysticism, but they have never concerned themselves with politics. The only exception was the period of resistance against colonial rule, when Moroccans opposed the French as the "enemies of Islam."

In Tunisia there is a tradition of Islamic scholars at Zeitoun University in Tunis, but they are more concerned with study than with political action.

In Algeria, the Islamic unrest of the past few days is even more surprising. Nobody could have predicted the appearance of such a movement, and especially not one of such size. But these events have to be viewed in political rather than religious terms. A hundred and thirty years of French colonial rule, plus eight years of a particularly bloody war, and the presence of the Ottomans before the French, all adds up to the fact that Algeria, as a nation, has an identity crisis. No one can emerge unscathed after so much violence built on the denial of Algeria's very existence.

In the years immediately after independence, people sought a sense of identity in the memory of martyrs and freedom fighters — and for a generation it worked. But today, the political and economic failure presided over by the one-party system of the National Liberation Front (FLN) has plunged the country's youth into despair. The bold socialism established by the late President Boumedienne in the wake of independence has not solved the problems that people face in their daily lives: the lack of freedom, the mismanagement of industrial plants, the corruption of the leaders, the exploitation of the memory of martyrs, the absence of any future prospects for millions of young people — all these factors have contributed to the birth of a religious movement of opposition.

The movement has doubtless been encouraged by the example of Iran and probably financed by Saudi Arabia. Eight hundred Algerian militants who enlisted on the side of the Afghan rebels have now returned home, an event not unconnected with the subsequent hardening of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The Islamic movement in Algeria began as a reaction against a social and political malaise whose roots lie deep in the country's history. It has nothing in common with the Moroccan brotherhoods, which have always played a part in society and its traditions. It is only in recent years that they have tried to influence the realm of politics, but since the Moroccan state has never ceased to be involved in religion, there is little opportunity for Islamists in Morocco to act. Moreover, the King's claim to the status of "Commander of the Believers" (Amir al-Mu'minin) has effectively undermined many of their claims. This is the fundamental difference with Algeria, where no one in power pretends to speak in the name of believers.

In Algeria, where the field was free, a few intellectuals who studied at Al Azhar University in Cairo and who had contact with

the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood felt that the moment was ripe to take advantage of the Algerians' discontent. They proposed a new society based on the principles of Islam, turning their backs on modernity and cutting off ties with the West and all its ills. Religion arrives with all the answers. All questions, temporal or metaphysical, can be resolved, however irrationally, by the sacred texts. This is the strength of Islamists: not only do they have answers to existential questions, but they offer an identity to a people who doubt their place in the Arab Muslim world.

Less cultivated than the Moroccan brotherhoods, the Algerian Islamists movements present themselves more as a political party than as a sect whose objective is to clean up society's political and social behaviour. They don't want to criticise the government and remind it of its duties; what they want is power to set up an Islamic republic in the totalitarian Iranian style.

Out of Islam they create an ideology, or more exactly they dress their ideology — a sort of totalitarianism based on intolerance and martyrology — with Islamic references, Islam is used. It is not an actor but a simple point of reference. A religious text can be made to say anything, and increasingly the discourse of the FIS is one of combat, not of peaceful moralising.

On the wave of its success in the local elections on June 12 last year, the FIS wanted to get rid of all other obstacles and seize power as soon as possible. Doubtless the crowds which follow are sincere; they are expressing their discontent and their hope for a more just and humane society, but they fail to understand that their religious convictions are being exploited for political ends. The FIS has not presented a rational or plausible economic programme; all it wants is to run the country, and to this end it is using the democratic process which served it well last year. But once the FIS has achieved its objective, democracy will be thrown out along with all the other things imported from the West.

The events of last week show that the FIS values democracy only in so far as it suits its purposes. In the wake of the Gulf war, the Islamists, who supported Saddam Hussein rather than

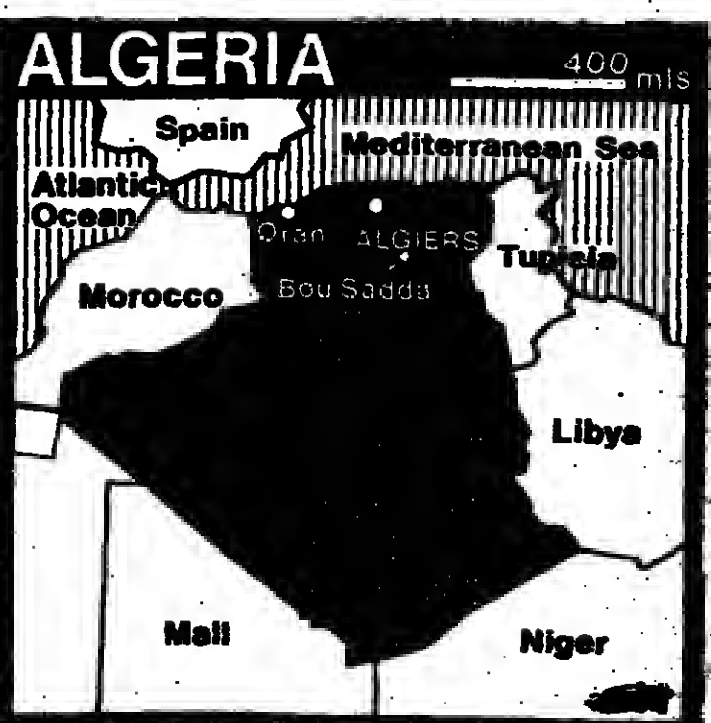
Saudi Arabia (which was giving them aid), saw their influence drop. The polls told them they would not do as well in the forthcoming legislative elections as in the local ones last year, so, fearful of the electoral results, they opted for the language of the streets and confrontation with the police and army. By holding a long strike, occupying public places and demanding the president's resignation, the Islamists are using the Iranian method which brought success to "Khomeini": the pressure of a crowd ready to sacrifice a few lives in the name of martyrdom. They succeeded in suspending the democratic process; the elections have been postponed; the government has changed.

But the greatest danger is of confrontation among the Algerian people: as the Islamist cause becomes less and less popular, the other political parties — there are no less than 44 — will join the struggle to reestablish democracy and to be able, after free elections, to participate in political life.

The three countries of the Maghreb are facing, in different degrees, the same threat: destabilisation from the streets, led by a new type of militant. Tunisia has opted for prevention and repression, accusing the Islamists of planning a coup. Morocco has remained on guard, even if the brotherhoods haven't gone so far as to demand power. During the demonstration on May 1 last year, the Moroccan Trade unions were surprised by Islamists, who infiltrated their march to such an extent that they changed its meaning and its slogans.

But it is in Algeria that the Islamist danger is most disturbing. Europe is concerned about the repercussions this could have on the immigrant communities on the continent and, more importantly, about the possibility of huge numbers of Algerian refugees fleeing an anti-democratic and anti-modern Muslim regime. In fact, it is not Islam that wants to take power, but individuals tempted by totalitarianism and authoritarianism. In Europe, 60 years ago, that gave rise to fascism.

Tahar Ben Jelloun, the novelist and poet, was born in Morocco in 1944 and emigrated to France in 1961. His books include *Solitaire*, *The Sand Child* and *The Sacred Night*. The article is reprinted from *The Guardian*.



King Juan Carlos, the Aga Khan open historic house

GRANADA, Spain (J.T.) — King Juan Carlos of Spain and the Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Ismaili Muslims, June 3 participated in a ceremony marking the official opening of a restored fourteenth century Arab house in the historic Albaycin quarter of Granada.

The house, known as the Zafra House after one of its sixteenth century proprietors, has been restored by the municipality of Granada with financial and professional assistance provided by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The restoration work on this small Nasrid house, which will serve as the centre for historic studies of Granada and its kingdom, took two years.

In his speech marking the opening of the Zafra House, King Juan Carlos said that the increasingly interdependent character of the world today provided a special meaning to the vision of Spain as a crossroads of cultures. Spain, King Juan Carlos said, has been home to many civilisations throughout the centuries, whose contributions, as seen particularly in Granada, are outstanding for their historical and universal significance.

The inauguration of the Zafra House was taking place at the right moment, said the King, "when reflection on the relationship between peoples and their cultural exchanges have become necessary for the future."

The restoration of the Zafra House was, the King declared, "an exemplary contribution from the Aga Khan to the city of Granada."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Aga Khan said that recent world events have raised questions of identity and cultural interdependence. "Issues of misperceptions and misunderstandings between cultures have become the focus of public agendas throughout the world," he said.

The Zafra House is a small gesture, a modest venture, toward creating bridges between worlds which do not often know each other and when they do know something, often misunderstand the values or significance of whatever little they know," said

Aga Khan.

Speaking of the future use of the Zafra House by the Centre for Historic Studies of the City of Granada and its kingdom, Aga Khan indicated that the purpose of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture itself was to explore ideas and develop strategies for revitalising the diverse culture forms and expressions of the Islamic world and to advance the humanistic vision of Islam lost in recent times. The Zafra House, he noted, reflected a period when, for many centuries, many very different religious traditions and linguistic or ethnic groups existed under the broad umbrella of an Islamic dominion that tolerated others.

"In those days of humanism," he said, referring to Islamic Al Andalus "poets and philosophers, mystics and rationalists, scientists and artists all lived within the same environment. That world was a creative synthesis, a brilliant marriage between several consenting cultures."

"To us, and I hope, for generations to come, the Zafra House is a small token of gratitude towards past worlds whose cultured wealth and fruitful tolerance we are, or should be, trying to emulate," he concluded.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, which has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, aims to foster a better understanding of Islamic civilisation through its architecture, arts and other cultural accomplishments. Among the trust's range of activities is a triennial prize, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, which encourages architecture for Muslims appropriate to the twentieth century. The trust also sponsors a post-graduate educational programme at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with associated programmes in the countries of the Islamic world, including Jordan and Pakistan.

Organised by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, an international seminar on architectural education in the Islamic world was inaugurated by King Juan Carlos at the Alhambra Palace in April 1989 and on Thursday, June 6, the trust organised a further symposium on the influence of Islam in the Iberian peninsula — Spain: Crossroads of culture.

Also among the trust's activities is the historic cities programme which seeks to revitalise historic urban centres and improve urban life. This programme is currently involved in restoration projects in Pakistan, Zanzibar and Egypt and has completed projects in Turkey, Pakistan and Morocco. The Zafra House in Granada is also one of this programme's projects.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture is part of a broader international network of social, economic and cultural development institutions, including the Aga Khan Foundation, the Aga Khan University and the Aga Khan Health and Education Services and the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development. This network places particular emphasis on programmes in low-income countries of Asia and Africa.

Despite anti-pollution plans, Netherlands remains dirty

By Galina Vromen
Reuter

THE HAGUE — two years after launching an ambitious environmental clean-up plan, the Netherlands is still one of the world's most polluted countries.

The country's image of tidy flower gardens, picturesque canals and lush meadows dotted with grazing cows and sheep masks the fact that its water supply is threatened by residue from manure and pesticides and that its forests are endangered by acid rain.

As one of the world's most populated and industrialised nations, the Netherlands is exposed to more environmental pressures than any other developed nation, according to a recent report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The 40 million tonnes of household and industrial waste the Dutch produce every year, if dumped, would swamp their tiny country in a metre-deep blanket of garbage within 10 years. And the tide of waste is rising by two per cent a year.

The problem prompted the government in May 1989 to unveil one of the world's most ambitious clean-up programmes. It proposed doubling spending on the environment over five years and reducing pollution by 70 per cent by the year 2000.

The plan was a mainstay of Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers's re-election campaign. But two years down the road, officials admit they have few concrete achievements to show for it.

"I cannot report spectacular results as yet in terms of an improved environment and one cannot reasonably expect it yet," Marius Enthoven, director general of the environment ministry, said in an interview.

"We are dealing with complex problems...it's not a process that can go to full speed from one day to another. It has to be built up."

Environmentalists are not happy with such explanations and are scathing in their review of progress so far.

"People in other countries have an impression that Dutch environmental policy is very effective and far reaching. This says more about the public relations skills of the government

than about the actual quality of the programmes," said Teo Wams, Dutch policy coordinator for Friends of the Earth.

In some areas the government appears to be losing the battle to clean up the country, particularly in waste and energy.

Energy use has risen two per cent a year more than projected by the government, increasing carbon dioxide emissions, which were a major target for reduction under the national environment policy plan (NEPP) because they contribute to global warming.

The OECD report said that although the plan called for intensive energy savings the Dutch still use about one fifth more energy per unit of gross national product than the average for the 24 industrialised nations in the OECD.

Despite its reputation as a nation of bicycle riders, the Netherlands has five times more cars per square km than the OECD average, the report said.

Traffic is increasing faster than government predictions and plans to cut the use of cars by imposing a levy on petrol of 25 cents (U.S. 12 cents) per litre this year could be stymied.

For decades, the government sought to encourage people to live far from congested urban

areas by giving them special tax breaks for long journeys to work. That policy is now viewed as a shift to public transport.

"We have to reverse a trend of 30 years," said Enthoven.

Agriculture will also have to undergo radical changes in a country where the stench of pig manure is as much a sign of spring as blooming tulips.

Highly efficient Dutch farmers raise 12 million pigs a year — one for almost every human inhabitant of the country. They also use more fertilisers and pesticides for their crops than their neighbours in Belgium, France or Germany.

Much of the 80 million tonnes of livestock and poultry manure produced every year, plus residue from pesticides and fertiliser, seeps into the soil. This contaminates the country's groundwater, its main drinking water source, and contributes to acid rain.

"The manure problem has been neglected for too long. It cannot be stopped by technical or economic means, but only by reducing the number of pig breeders by 20, 30 or 40 per cent," Enthoven said.

French nudists defy messiah of the mountains

By Stuart Wavell

A DISCORD that passes all understanding has gripped the mountain community of Castellane in the alps of Haute Provence. Some maintain the trouble began when the messiah proclaimed himself. Others blame the ferment on his disciples' attempts to buy up the town. But for Pascale Fourrier it was the blinding lights.

Fourrier, a humble nudist camp proprietor, has closely observed the troubled saga since buying his idyllic property on the slopes of the turquoise waters of Lake Castellane, 70 miles north of Cannes. His closest neighbours are the 50 monks and nuns of Mandarom monastery, led by Gilbert Bourdin, the self-proclaimed "Cosmo-planetary Messiah."

"When I came here in 1981, they just had their statue of Buddha and a mosque," Fourrier recalled. "And relations were good then. We told them to help themselves to our peaches. But things slowly began to deteriorate."

The townsfolk of Castellane, six miles away, began to murmur when new structures sprouted on the mountainside. In addition to the Buddha statue — at 71 ft the fourth largest in the world — the monastery gave birth to a 68 ft statue of Christ, stone elephants and tigers, and Hindu and Jewish temples. Last year a 109 ft statue of Bourdin dressed in robes and crown appeared.

Other phenomena, however, were disrupting the innocent pursuits of Fourrier's naturist clientele. "There was the chanting and the bells," he said. "They mounted a loudspeaker that was blaring away night and day. Then they brought out these very big mirrors that sometimes shone into our faces. They said it was to chase demons away. We had to go to the perfect to stop them."

Matters came to a head last summer when Bourdin held a press conference to announce that he was the messiah, responsible for ushering mankind into the golden age. He claimed to

have annihilated 550 billion demons in a series of epic battles and chained Lucifer, paving the way for the fall of the Berlin Wall and a rapprochement between East and West.

"Matters came to a head last summer when Bourdin held a press conference to announce he was the messiah, responsible for ushering mankind into the golden age. He claimed to have annihilated 550 billion demons in a series of epic battles and chained Lucifer, paving the way for the fall of the Berlin wall and West-East rapprochement."

But a new cold war was about to start in Castellane, where an estate agent had bought up properties and planned an ambitious development, exposed as one of Bourdin's lay followers — a "Knight of the Order of the Golden Lotus" — he fled the town.

The rumour spread that the town would become a reception centre for thousands of pilgrims who would flock to Mandarom. The plan was cancelled and two shops opened by "knights," a

florist and a vegetarian food store, were boycotted. Both are now up for sale.

"We don't want the town to become a Lourdes or a Mecca," Michel Carle, the mayor, said. "We refused to work with the estate agent, and now the monastery no longer buys its supplies here. It looks like punishment."

Concern then switched to the mysterious offers to buy shepherds' land around the monastery. Fourrier claims his nudist camp was the target. "A Belgian came here in a white Rolls-Royce with an estate agent from Digne. They said they wanted to buy my land to make a film. They offered me 1.2 million francs (£120,000), then 2 million. I said it wasn't for sale. They could have offered me a billion francs and I wouldn't sell. In the end the campers threw them out."

In a poisonous climate of suspicion, Bourdin recently called another press conference to announce his "Fourth Revelation." "Scribes drove up the hazardous single track road to be greeted by burly security men wearing Wonder Woman headbands.

Details of the "messiahs" carby past are hazy. Reportedly born in Martinique 67 years ago, he was an official in the French finance ministry who was initiated as a yogi in 1961 and founded the Mandarom ("sacred mountain") monastery eight years later.

Claiming to be a reincarnation of Christ, Buddha, Napoleon and Pythagoras, he rejects "self-satisfied weakness" in favour of a "heroic" strategy of "striking evil and its manifestations." His enemies are the swarms of demons released by a thermonuclear war on Atlantis 36,000 years ago. His weapons are prayer, mirrors and laser guns. He claims to have 1,000 followers worldwide.

The media sat through a Buddhist ceremony before Bourdin answered questions. A tall figure with brown skin and piercing blue eyes, wearing a shimmer-

ing golden robe and a winged crown, he was flanked by bodyguards and high priests as he took his seat on a red velvet throne. To the accompaniment of gongs, bells and flutes an adoring congregation of cloaked knights, monks and nuns lustily sang refrains, punctuated by the sonorous intonation "Om."

"The statues are not there to please me," Bourdin said, changing into a larger and even more ornate crown. "It is not a question of moi, moi, moi. Not at all." The Lord Hamsat Manarah, Master of the Green Ray, listed his achievements, including shielding the earth from extraterrestrial invasion, protecting the world's governments, preventing a third world war and a nuclear accident in Marseilles.

Beyond plans for a larger temple, he claimed to have no other expansion scheme in mind. "I don't want to buy up the whole of Castellane. I have a horror of money. I have been accused of having a Rolls-Royce. I don't even have a moped."

He dismissed rumours that he was trafficking drugs or harbouring KGB spies. "It is who we are under very close surveillance," he said, claiming that the monastery was being persecuted.

By his account, he is more sinned against than sinning. Low-flying military aircraft had attempted to crack his statues. Army commandos had installed listening devices and mind-totting transmitters on the mountainside. Attempts had been made to poison his food, ransack his documents and install electronic bugs in his lorus-shaped dwelling.

During the vegetarian meal that followed, some doubt was cast on Bourdin's reassurances. "The mayor of Castellane will be gone in a short time," said Jean-Marc Jacot, a Paris teacher and martial-arts instructor who helps to support the monastery with a £16 annual subscription. "This is just the beginning," he said. "Very soon our followers will be arriving from all over the world."

He added enigmatically: "When you clean your closet there's always a lot of mess." — The Sunday Times.

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ARAMEX

Sports

Davis Cup tournament

Jordan loses chance for qualifying

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan lost its chance to qualify to the Davis Cup tournament Friday when it lost the doubles match to Pakistan. Jordan's team, Emad Abu Hamda and Ayman Abu Jaher, lost to Pakistan's Rashid Malek and Hameed Al Haq 6:0, 6:1, 6:4 in the match which was held at Al Hussein Youth City.

After the first few games the gap between the standards of the competing teams was obviously wide as the Pakistani team played almost effortlessly, winning game

after game in the first two sets. In the third set, the Pakistani team was exerting very little effort.

Hani Al Ali, even though he had recovered from the muscle strain he had suffered Thursday during the opening singles match was disqualified by the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) from Friday's doubles match which he was previously registered to play.

"Dr. Hanna Kassar, after testing my strength twice, said that I am capable of playing in Friday's match and I feel good," Al Ali told the Jordan Times. "But the JTF had already made a decision to disqualify me and that decision

was final," he said.

This disqualification did not necessarily mean that Al Ali's doubles partner, Saleh Bushnaq, should have been prevented from playing in the match, but Bushnaq was not selected by JTF to play Friday. Bushnaq is considered one of the best Jordanian doubles players, according to the team's coach, Omar Bisher.

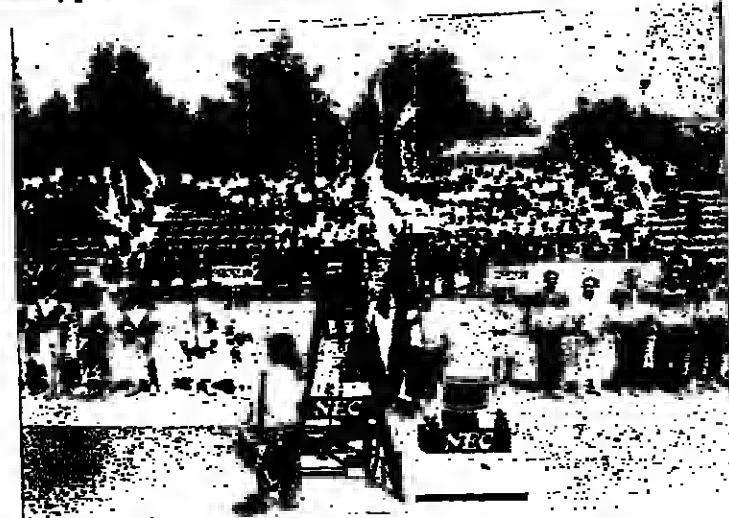
Regardless of who wins Saturday's final round of games to be played by Jordan's Bushnaq (instead of Al Ali), Jordan will not qualify for the Davis Cup finals this year.

The Davis Cup opening match Thursday between Jordan's Al

Ali and Hameed Al Haq of Pakistan was, as predicted, a good show.

Pakistan won the first match which lasted 127 minutes with an outcome of 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. There were many cases when the ball rallied up to 14 times before the point was determined.

After the 3rd set it became increasingly more obvious that Mr. Al Ali was moving around with difficulty as a result of the muscle strain. Al Haq's match point went unreturned when Al Ali fell with the pain of his injury and was carried off to hospital on a stretcher.



Opening ceremony of Davis Cup tournament Thursday.

The captain of the Jordanian team, Nasser Attallah said that Al Ali held up very well. "Considering the fact that Al Ali had not practised for too long he played well," Attallah said.

Jordan's Emad Abu Hamda played against Pakistan's Rashid Malek, Thursday. Malek won 6:2, 6:2, 6:4.

The Pakistani team captain, Syed Mahmood Alam, said that he felt that the Jordanian team was not as physically fit as it could be.

Joyner planning track comeback

NEW YORK (AP) — Whatever happened to Florence Griffith Joyner? The sensation of the 1988 Olympics — on and off the track — is quietly preparing for a comeback. But not in the sprints in which she reeled off two world records four years ago and won three gold medals and one silver medal.

Her husband, Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympic triple jump champion, also is making a comeback of sorts.

Al Joyner is a visitor at this week's Mobil National Championships, taking some time off from coaching his wife.

"She's training for the Marathon," Joyner insisted, even though Flojo never has run longer than 400 metres in competi-

tion. "It's always something she wanted to do. She loves running distances."

"That was always her forte. In 1988, she put in a lot of mileage. Now, she reads every book about marathoning."

"She's up to training 40 miles (64 kilometres) a week. You will see her in a distance running event in 1992. Her goal is to eventually run the marathon at the 1996 Olympics."

Flojo has been training every day since late December, six weeks after giving birth to her first child, a daughter. At the time, she had ballooned to 196 pounds (89 kilograms). Now she weighs 129 (58 kilograms).

Running and motherhood have not been the only jobs occupying

Flojo's time.

She also has been doing television commentary, taking acting lessons, writing screenplays and children's books, doing charity work, speaking at schools, designing clothes and making commercials.

But she has maintained a low-key profile.

"Florence has always been a quiet person," Joyner said. "She doesn't try to get attention."

She couldn't help but get attention in 1988 with her electrifying performances on the track and her glamorous outfits on and off the track.

She smashed the world record in the 100 metres, with a 10.49-second clocking at the U.S.

Olympic trials in Indianapolis, and shattered the world record in the 200 with a time of 21.34 at the Seoul Olympics, where she won gold in the 100, 200 and 400-metre relay, and a silver in the 1,600 relay.

Flojo has not competed since October 1988, shortly after the games. She announced her retirement in February 1989. Now, she appears serious about marathoning.

"She misses the competition, she misses the training," Joyner said. "She's training every day."

Joyner never has retired, but he has not been very active since failing to make the 1988 Olympic team in the triple jump and the 110-metre high hurdles.

Napoli wants Maradona back after suspension

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Napoli club president Corrado Ferlaino said Wednesday his team wants Argentine star forward Diego Maradona back after his 15-month suspension for testing positive for cocaine ends next year.

"We hold Maradona in high esteem," Ferlaino said. "We have not asked that his contract, which expires in 1993, be canceled. We hope that Maradona can play again with us. He still is an idol for Naples fans."

Maradona, 30, was suspended through June 30, 1992, April 6 for testing positive following a league match against Bari on March 17.

After returning to Argentina, Maradona was arrested April 26, 1991 by Buenos Aires police in a raid and charged with possession and distribution of drugs.

Maradona's manager Marco Franchi has since said the 1986 World Cup most valuable player is undergoing drug treatment in Argentina.

We hope Diego can solve his problems soon and that he can resume action. We would be glad to have him with us," Ferlaino added.

Franchi is presently in Naples to discuss with Napoli a controversy about Maradona's commercial contracts.

"The player's contract with Napoli is not being questioned," Ferlaino said.

Maradona, who joined Napoli in 1984 for a then record \$10-million transfer fee from Barcelona of Spain, led the Italian club to its first league title in 1987 and the UEFA cup in 1989.

But his relationship deteriorated greatly with the club over the last two years.

He refused to report for games and practices early in the 1990-91 season, including an incident in which he said he was not in shape to accompany his teammates to a European champions cup second-round, second-leg match at Spartak Moscow. He later relented and joined his teammates.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Connors gets wild card for Wimbledon

LONDON (R) — Former Wimbledon champion Jimmy Connors was granted a wild card for this year's championship on Thursday. He had not been among the first batch of five world cards chosen for the men's singles by the All England Club Committee Tuesday. The 38-year-old Connors, champion in 1974 and 1982 but now ranked only 218 in the world, was given one of the final three places. The others went to British players Chris Wilkinson and Nich Brown.

Porterfield becomes Chelsea manager

LONDON (R) — Ian Porterfield was appointed manager of Chelsea Tuesday, two years after quitting the English first division club. Porterfield, best known for his winning goal for second division Sunderland against Leeds in the 1978 F.A. Cup final, was assistant to outgoing manager Bobby Campbell during his first spell at Chelsea. Campbell is now assistant to Chelsea chairman Ken Bates. "When I left the club in November 1989 they were top of division one. I sometimes found it a bit difficult being a number two, but I soon regretted leaving," said Porterfield, who later became manager of third division Reading. Porterfield, who won the third and fourth division titles as manager of Rotherham and Sheffield United respectively and twice took Scottish side Aberdeen into Europe, resigned from Reading a few months ago.

Bruno cleared to fight again

LONDON (R) — Britain's former world heavyweight title contender Frank Bruno said he was ready to fight again after recovering from a career-threatening eye injury and wants a re-match against Mike Tyson. Bruno feared his boxing career was over after having surgery in April on a torn retina thought to have been inflicted during his world title bout by Tyson over two years ago. But Friday the 29-year-old boxer said he had been given the all-clear to resume fighting. "Professor David Macleod, the top eye specialist in the country, has examined me and has told me that my eye problem is completely cured," he said. "I appreciate that the British boxing board of control have the health and safety of boxers uppermost in their minds and I am positive I can convince them of my fitness." Bruno, who has not fought since he was stopped in five rounds by Tyson in Las Vegas in February 1989, will apply for his licence later this month and is already planning a comeback fight, possibly against American James "Boocrosher" Smith in September. "I dream of a return match with Tyson in Loodoo but there is a lot to be done before I turn it into reality," he said.

Cash moves towards meeting Edberg

LONDON (R) — Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash's return to form gathered pace with another easy win at the Lodon Grass Court Tournament at Queen's Club Thursday. Bot the unseeded Australian could run into trouble in the shape of world number one Stefan Edberg at the next hurdle. Edberg, who will defend his Wimbledon title later this month, was playing another Australian, Jason Stoltenberg, in the third round of the ATP event later Thursday. But Cash, who lost the Beckenham Grass Court final to Ivan Lendl last weekend, refused to be anxious about playing Edberg. "It doesn't really matter whether Stefan is out there tomorrow or my grandmother," he said. "I am not really worrying about who I am playing I am just worrying about playing well myself."

Fans toast Bulls' 1st basketball championship

CHICAGO (R) — Ecstatic Chicago Bulls fans hugged and sang in clogged streets, until the early hours Thursday as they celebrated the professional basketball team's first-ever championship.

Tens of thousands of Chicagoans poured into the main thoroughfares Wednesday night after watching their team cap three consecutive victories with a 108-101 win over the Los Angeles Lakers, winning the final National Basketball Association series four games to one.

The victory sparked fireworks and motorists blasted their horns, police reported few arrests as spontaneous parties went on, throughout this city of three million people.

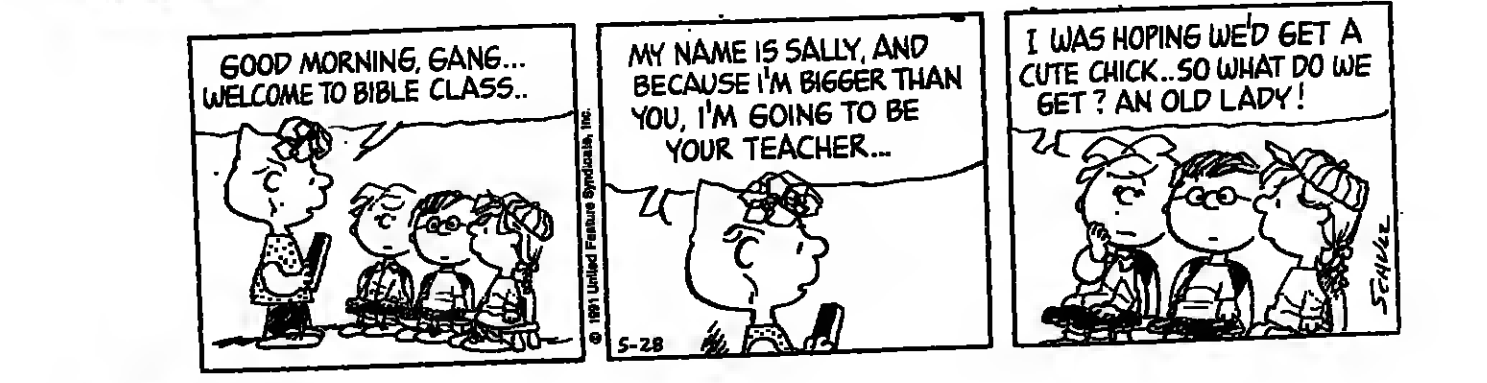
Chicago's hunger for a championship was strong among long-suffering fans who had seen the city win few in any sport over the past half-century.

Although the city's American Football Team, the Bears, woo the superbowl in 1986, Chicago's Baseball fans last saw a championship season when the White Sox won the world series in 1917.



Michael Jordan

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 15, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Moon in Leo conjunct Mars brings moods of aggressiveness, and impulsive actions with the likelihood of a change of plans. Complications that are unforeseen and unexpected occur.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Forget work and dreary drudgeries and make a point to get off with charmers and kin or others you like very much and come to new decisions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day to forget pleasures and to centre your efforts towards making your property more valuable as well as get ideas to add in your income.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be just as personal as you like, get out of the house early and go to see and be with personal contacts who can help make your life more happier.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Personal intimate pleasures can be yours for the asking now so forget all that running around hither and thither and make your quiet needs fulfilled.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to get together with any and all friends who have the same outlook as yourself so let them know what your aims actually are you want.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you are able to find the outlet of things that can make your own projects much easier and gain the good will of a highly placed person as well.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You certainly have a wonderful day in make big headway and strides in finding some fascinating persons and new ideas under which to operate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get busy with deciding whatever way you can attend to all your obligations of a personal business nature with more care and exactness.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Discuss at length this day just what you expect from others but after you have listened to what the desire of you so you have the draw out them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Busy yourself at the assignments you haven't been able to get done during the busy time ahead and look for approval that is more suitable to your mood.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the time to make sure you have it in your power in please chums by entertainment at mutually agreeable recreations and amusements.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do and then improve conditions at your own residence by strict attention and application to what your own can expects of you.

THE BETTER HALF. By Morris
HARPER'S 9-16

"You hate the way I eat with my mouth open? Gee, I always thought that was one of my 'charming imperfections'!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, in form four ordinary words.

GREEM
DANSY
LAPPOR
PLAACCA

Answer: "GOLD - CROWN" HIS (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: VALET LYRIC WALLOP SEXTON
Answer: What mother-in-law expected and got from son-in-law - AWE - LOTS OF IT!

THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole

ACROSS
1 Support
5 Conical
9 Entry novels
13 Norse god
14 "Give — horse we can die..."
15 Mr. Ferber
16 Inevitable
17 Evade
19 Proper
21 Snow cargo
22 Society page
23 Arrogant
25 Antidotes
27 — soda
29 Abstracts
31 Certain sports
32 Item
35 Tax form expert
36 Literary piece
38 Biblical word
39 Pro —
41 Marsh birds
43 Ireland
44 Biting
46 Five fabrics
48 Examine carefully
49 Max. liquor
51 Lat stand
52 Ms. Merkel
53 Affirmatives
55 Suspect's defense
57 Priest's robe
59 Mileage note
60 Jail cell
65 Surround with field
66 Musical combo
70 Acoustic mammal
71 Plant source
72 Well St. Inst.
74 River to the North Sea

DOWN
1 Intrigued
2 Together in music
3 Mince around
4 Joints
5 Southern academy letters
6 Nodular
7 Ancient Peruvians
8 Praised
9 Gun or motor
10 Agent's benefit
11 — Boleyn
12 1492 A.D.
14 Performer
15 Value
20 In the altogether
24 Mex. money
25 Tennis name
27 Beat in
28 Specialty
30 "City of Light"
32 Roundabout
33 Mergers
34 Medicinal plant
37 Black Sea port
40 Medieval chest
42 Helter-skelter
43 Merry place
47 Agitate

50 Jack of time
54 Sentimental one
56 Garmouths gal
57 Bible book
58 Modern money
59 Cheese
61 Umpire's tea
63 Ye — Tea Shoppe
64 do-well
66 Fish
67 Observe

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close (June 14, 1991)	Tokyo Close (June 14, 1991)
Sterling Pound	1.6450	1.6430
Deutsche Mark	1.7915	1.7912
Swiss Franc	1.5312	1.5307
French Franc	6.0775	6.0710**
Japanese Yen	141.50	141.15
European Currency Unit	1.1495	1.1488**

USD Per 100
European Operation 14:00 GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 13/6/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	9.02	9.12	9.27	9.93
Sterling Pound	11.25	11.10	10.87	10.75
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.67	8.60	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.47	7.37	7.37	7.87
French Franc	9.28	9.22	9.62	9.82
Japanese Yen	7.53	7.70	7.64	7.55
European Currency Unit	10.20	9.81	9.75	9.81

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 13/6/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	370.0	7.00	Silver	4.50	1.0

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Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 13/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1259	1.1315
Deutsche Mark	.3818	.3837
Swiss Franc	.4465	.4490
French Franc	.1127	.1133
Japanese Yen	.4821	.4855
Dutch Guilder	.3389	.3406
Swedish Krona	.1062	.1067
Italian Lira	.0515	.0516
Belgian Franc	.01860	.01869

© Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 13/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	.0745	.0765
Saudi Riyal	.1820	.1830
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1850	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1850	.1860
Greek Drachma	.3440	.3640
Cypriot Pound	1.3900	1.4100

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CAL Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	11/6/1991 Close	12/6/1991 Close
All-Share	111.82	111.64
Banking Sector	107.34	107.34
Insurance Sector	113.72	114.25
Industry Sector	115.73	115.52
Services Sector	131.03	130.73

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6255/65	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1431/36	Canadian dollar
	1.8018/28	Deutsche marks
	2.0295/0305	Dutch guilders
	1.5440/50	Swiss francs
	37.08/07	Belgian francs
	6.1200/50	French francs
	1342/1343	Italian lire
	141.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.5025/75	Swedish crowns
	7.0850/0400	Norwegian crowns
	6.9500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	368.60/369.10	U.S. dollars

Corporate bankruptcies in Japan soar in May

TOKYO (R) — High interest rates, a tight labour market and burdensome distribution costs boosted the number of Japanese corporate bankruptcies for the eighth consecutive month in May, a private research institute has said.

A total of 981 firms bankrupt that month, a nearly 78 per cent rise from the same month last year, the Tokyo Commerce and Industry Research Co. said.

The real estate industry was particularly hard hit by higher interest rates and tight bank lending. Bankruptcies among property firms soared to 100 cases from 14 year earlier.

The research firm said the property industry is suffering from the pricking of Japan's "bubble" economy of the late 1980s, which saw stock and property prices soar.

Tight money and a lack of skilled workers boosted bankruptcies among construction firms to 206 cases in May, up from 118 a year earlier, it said.

Debts from bankruptcies in May totalled 476.18 billion yen (\$3.37 billion), up 112 per cent from a year earlier, but down 46 per cent from April.

Treasury approves U.S. imports of Iranian oil

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. government has allowed a Texas company to import Iranian crude oil into the United States, the first such shipments in four years.

The United States banned Iranian oil imports in 1987 in response to attacks on Gulf shipping during the Iran-Iraq war, which lasted from 1980 to 1988.

Coastal Corp., an independent oil company based in Houston, said it was allowed to import 2.5 million barrels.

Chevron Corp., the U.S.'s fourth-largest oil company with longstanding ties in the Middle East, said it had applied for a licence to import Iranian crude and expected a response from the government in several days.

The United States banned Iranian oil imports in 1987 in response to attacks on Gulf shipping during the Iran-Iraq war, which lasted from 1980 to 1988.

Late last year President George Bush's government partially lifted the ban, on condition that revenues went to a special account in the Hague established to settle accounts between Iran and the United States.

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	June 8-12	June 1-5
Daily average	JD 1,695,040	JD 1,273,213
Total volume	JD 6,780,160	JD 6,369,213
Total shares	3,344,342	3,316,870
No. Of contracts	4,075	4,408

Sectoral trading:

	June 8-12	June 1-5
Industrial	JD 4,443,265 (65.5%)	JD 3,985,093 (62.5%)
Financial	JD 1,348,699 (19.9%)	JD 1,583,421 (24.9%)
Service	(13.3%)	(11.7%)
Insurance	(1.3%)	(0.9%)
Share price index	134.5	133.9
No. of companies	72	74
Price movement (rise)	33	15
(Decline)	27	53
(Stable)	12	6

© Per 100

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks finished strongly higher on futures-related buying. The Nikkei average ended up 285.72 points at 25,093.89.

SYDNEY — Stocks closed sharply higher, reflecting satisfaction with recently appointed treasurer John Kerin. The All Ordinaries index closed 13.5 points higher at 1,506.8.

HONG KONG — Stock prices edged higher in a day of featureless trading with the Hang Seng index closing up 6.60 points at 3,639.15.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mostly lower on profit-taking and stop-loss selling. The 30-share Straits Times industrial index lost 9.17 points to close at 1,527.50.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose in volatile trading ahead of the last round of Indian general elections on Saturday. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 17.66 points to 1,292.81.

FRANKFURT — The DAX index rose 7.20 marks to 1,699.83 ending a week of consolidation.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer after a Wall Street-inspired rally in the last half hour of trading. The SPI index rose 10.7 points to 1,112.8.

LONDON — The FTSE index closed up 7.7 points at 2,522.3 as early Wall Street strength sent stocks modestly firmer in quiet trading.

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks at midday maintained a solid advance in across-the-board buying with the Dow Jones industrial index ahead 29 about 2994.

Libya's open borders fill shops with unaccustomed luxury items

BENGHAZI, Libya (R) — The freeing of cross-border trade with Egypt and Tunisia has brought the Coca-Cola, America's most pervasive symbol, into Libyan shops.

"It's a real change in the last three months," said a Libyan-based diplomat. "You could buy most things before, but now they offer a choice of brands."

Shops in this eastern port city offer Coca-Cola and Fanta, made under U.S. licence in Egypt, Tunisian shampoo and such Western staples as Nescafe in Nivea cream.

A bar of English chocolate sells for 1.5 dinars (\$4.50) at the official rate of exchange. Cypriot biscuits are two dinars (\$6).

"The only problem is they're not a commercial people," a diplomat said. "You go into a shop and say, 'are these pistachios good?' and they'll say, 'No, they're no good, don't buy them.'"

Shopkeepers say most goods come from Tunisia and Egypt and many from the Mediterranean island of Malta.

Those with foreign currency can do their own importing and Libyans travelling abroad come home laden with goods — the so-called "suitcase trade."

Libyan officials say border relaxation has attracted Tunisians who change dollars on the black market and buy up subsidised staple foods.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has told his people to look on the trade as a form of aid to their Western neighbour.

Libya's oil revenues, which rose to \$9.7 billion in 1990 from 1989's \$7.486 billion, ensure a reasonable standard of living.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 9.4 per cent in 1990 to 7,816 million dinars (\$27.37 billion), official figures show.

Business has boomed since Colonel Qadhafi introduced sweeping reforms to allow free trade with neighbouring states.

Falling oil prices in 1985 and 1986 led to tough austerity measures. Foreign workers were expelled and most consumer imports effectively banned.

World Bank figures show Libya's GDP declined by an average of six per cent a year between 1980 and 1989.

"Two or three years ago, there were no shops, let alone goods in them," recalled one diplomat.

The most telling sign of greater prosperity must be the appearance of articles in newspapers condemning consumerism as unseemly in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

An article appeared about a month ago headlined "Fancy Vil-



Muammar Qadhafi

las with Satellite Dishes: Time for the Bulldozer. A recent cartoon showed a ship in Tripoli harbour with sails made of dinar notes and the name "consumerism" on the bow.

But diplomats say privatisation cannot extend much further than the small-scale retail end. "He (Qadhafi) can't open up more without going back on his own philosophy," one said.

Colonel Qadhafi's "Green Book" describes a state-run socialist system with the slogan "Partners, not Wage-Workers." His green revolution sought to free the economy from foreign influence.

European oil companies are now rushing to offer the expertise Libya needs to exploit its proven oil reserves of 26 billion barrels, which at current output rates should last 65 to 70 years.

May oil output fell slightly to 1.45 million barrels per day from April's 1.5 million, compared with a 1.425 million pledge for the second quarter.

A continuing U.S. embargo on Libyan oil, imposed in 1982, means companies like Italy's Agip SPA, France's Total-CIE, and Belgium's Petrofina S.A. are taking the lion's share of new acreage.

"Basically the Americans have missed the boat," said the foreign ventures supervisor of one European oil company.

"There's a lot of potential for development in the Gulf of Sirte that they can't access," he noted.

A \$6,000 per capita annual income makes Libya ineligible for soft loans but Europeans see plenty of scope for joint ventures.

Colonel Qadhafi's moderate stance in the Gulf war and Libya's chairmanship of the Arab Maghreb Union of five North African states have improved its international status, paving the way to stronger European links.

Rome plan to trim deficit hits resistance

ROME (R) — Italian Budget Minister Paolo Cirino Pomicino rejected a parliamentary move Thursday to trim cost-cutting measures aimed at containing the country's soaring public sector deficit.

The senate finance and budget commission voted late Wednesday to reject part of the government's emergency budget after some members of the ruling Christian Democrats sided with the opposition.

Mr. Pomicino, a Christian Democrat, said unless parliament reinstituted the clauses it would put a huge strain on government efforts to hold the deficit to its 1991 target of 132 trillion lire (\$98 billion).

The mini-rebellion in the senate highlighted the coalition government's difficulties in pushing through unpopular legislation.

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and his economic ministers have threatened a bill that would forbid parliament altering budget measures — but that proposal has run into resistance.

The senate commission objected to a clause giving the treasury discretionary powers over some 5.3 trillion lire (\$4.1 billion) of financing to local authorities.

"It is no use everybody saying the deficit must be contained and then rejecting the government's proposals," Mr. Pomicino said.

The full parliament, which could reinstate the rejected measure, has around a month in which to vote on the 14 trillion lire (\$10.5 billion) package of cost cuts and new taxes approved by the government last month.

E. Europeans stress need for trade outlets

BRUSSELS (R) — East European countries stressed their need Thursday for greater trade outlets and said Western aid for the Soviet Union should not hit their own exports, European Commission sources said.

European Community's (EC's) External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen endorsed their demands and suggested more use of Western aid credits from its former communist allies.

Representatives of six east European countries attending a meeting of senior officials of the G-24 group of rich industrialised states said they needed a clear signal that their access to international trade markets would be improved.

The sources said they emphasised the harm which Western food aid to the Soviet Union could cause to east European countries deprived of a major traditional market.

The meeting was called to allow stock-taking of international aid efforts totalling 32 billion ECUS (\$40 billion) to help the transformation of east European countries to market economies.

Countries getting help are Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Andriessen said the reform process was at a critical moment when the consensus in favour of rigorous economic strategies was being tested by inevitable short-term difficulties — a reference to social tensions resulting from such problems as high inflation and unemployment.

Mr. Andriessen called for "an unambiguous reaffirmation" by all G-24 members that they would press on with their endeavour "until it is self-sustaining and the private sector takes over as the main agent of reform."

His remark reflected recent unease by the commission, which is coordinating the G-24 programme, that the 12-nation EC is not getting enough support from its partners, notably the United States and Japan.

Mr. Andriessen proposed that a G-24 ministerial meeting be held in the autumn to agree what to do next.

He said the way ahead could include joint projects involving different members of G-24.

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Yeltsin elected president of Russia Victorious reformers plan to turn election group into anti-communist party

MOSCOW (AP) — Radical reformers celebrated their victory over communist opponents in three key races by announcing plans to transform their successful election coalition into a true alternative to the Communist Party.

Boris Yeltsin was elected the first president of the Russian Republic with 60 per cent of the vote running against five opponents, election officials said Thursday. Russia is the largest of the 15 Soviet republics with half the 289 million Soviet people.

Yeltsin's allies, Gavril Popov and Anatoly Sobchak, were elected mayors of Moscow and Leningrad respectively, each with 65 per cent of the vote against communist opponents.

And in Leningrad, voters backed dropping the name of Soviet founder and communist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin in favour of the city's czarist name of St. Petersburg.

The victories, all backed by the Democratic Russia Coalition, showed the power of the anti-communists now that they have finally united, Popov told a news conference Thursday evening.

The fact that diverse reform groups, "came together around a constructive programme ... has great meaning for the fate of our country and for the formation of a strong party that could become an alternative to the Communist Party," Popov said.

Gleb Yakunin, another leader of Democratic Russia, said Yeltsin's first act would be to tear Communist Party cells from factories and government offices across Russia.

Democratic reformers have been split into dozens of small, weak political parties since non-communist alternatives were legalised in March 1990.

Former Soviet Foreign Minister

Eduard Shevardnadze, a communist who resigned in December warning of the danger of impending dictatorship, this week gave his support to creation of an alternative party uniting all democratic forces.

"We should have created an opposition a few years ago. ... There can be no state of law without a solid, serious, constructive opposition," Shevardnadze said in an interview with the Vienna daily Kurier.

Yeltsin's victory makes him the only Soviet official to have won a massive popular election. That gives him a stronger mandate to push Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev — who has never stood for a popular election — toward more radical economic and political reforms that he has been resisting.

These include allowing privately owned farms, legalising business practices still banned by the communist-dominated state and increasing republic powers at the expense of the national government.

The White House responded to Yeltsin's victory by inviting him to meet next Thursday with U.S. President George Bush, whose spokesman said the republic's first presidential election was "a good sign" for reform and democracy.

"Russia has entered the civilised age. ... This is a gigantic, historic step," Popov said.

The 60-year-old Yeltsin was resting at home Thursday, his office said, and planned no immediate comment. Several dozen supporters celebrated by waving Russian flags and campaign posters on Pushkin Square in Moscow.

Yeltsin, an ex-communist who now backs private land ownership and a rapid switch to a market economy, trounced five rivals in

the first popular election for president of the Russian Federation. He won 60 per cent of the vote, the TASS news agency reported, quoting the central election commission.

His nearest rival, Communist Party candidate and former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, received about 15 per cent of the votes in many of the republic's major cities, according to the independent Interfax and Postfactum news agencies. An overall estimate for Ryzhkov was not available.

Yeltsin's victory strengthens his position in negotiations with Gorbachev over the future of the Soviet Union.

Yeltsin favours strong, nearly independent republics with a central government so weak it would not even be allowed to levy taxes. He wants it to be a "500-day plan" for switching to a market economy.

His resounding victory also indicates strong public support for rapid economic reform. Last summer, Yeltsin failed to get Gorbachev to approve a "500-day plan" for switching to a market economy.

Ryzhkov, who was Soviet prime minister at the time, claimed the people wanted a slow transition. Some of Ryzhkov's critics said his version was so slow it blocked a market economy.

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Boris Yeltsin

being St. Petersburg is a strong blow to the legacy of Lenin, the revolutionary who founded the Soviet Union.

Officials Thursday quarrelled over whether the Russian legislature or the national one, or both, must approve the non-binding referendum to put the name change into effect. The Russian parliament is likely to be far more agreeable.

Gorbachev opposed the name change, but Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexi II favoured it. Exiled writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn proposed "Svyato Petrograd" (holy petrograd).

Sobchak, a lawyer and national parliamentarian, won the Leningrad mayoral election with 65 per cent of the vote. Communist candidate Yuri Sevanard came in second with 26 per cent, Ms. Kruchina said.

In Moscow, economist Popov won 65 per cent of the mayoral vote, while communist Valery Salin won second with 15 per cent, Postfactum reported.

Both Sobchak and Popov were incumbents previously elected by the city councils, not the public.

Four blasts rock volcano; typhoon roars towards Philippines

MANILA (R) — Mount Pinatubo erupted again in four fiery explosions Friday, hurling out red hot lava and a huge mushroom cloud of swirling ash, as a typhoon roared towards the Philippines.

The government said five people had died, five were missing and 39 injured since the volcano burst into life last Sunday after lying dormant for six centuries, forcing the closure of Clark, the largest American air base in Asia.

At least 39 people were injured in a hail of rocks ejected by the spouting volcano. Clouds of ash blacked out the sun and a rain of volcanic sand fell on the American Subic Bay Naval Base, 35 kilometres to the south of Pinatubo.

Huge mudflows caused by heavy rains cascaded down the side of the erupting volcano as typhoon Yunya threatened to sweep the country, triggering floods and fresh danger for

50,000 Filipinos crowding refugee centres.

Mount Pinatubo, 90 kilometres north of Manila, ejected another huge mushroom cloud in four big explosions within three hours Friday afternoon after a day-long lull, spitting out rock and red hot lava for the third consecutive day.

It sent ash soaring 30,000 metres into the sky in the biggest blast to rock the volcano so far. Scientists expected a further major eruption of the volcano,

which has forced the evacuation of Clark Air Base.

They said the approaching typhoon, expected to hit the northern Philippines with winds of 200 kph Saturday, could spawn floods and more mudslides.

The Philippine Volcanology and Seismology Institute said people living beside rivers at the foot of Pinatubo should move to higher ground because of mudflows that may be caused by typhoon Yunya's heavy rains.

Italy to send home Albanian refugees

ROME (R) — Seven hundred Albanians who sailed across the Adriatic in makeshift rafts in a desperate attempt to emigrate to Italy are to be sent home, the Italian government decided Friday.

Immigration Minister Margherita Boniver said the Albanians would have to stay on board the ships which had rescued them until they could be sent home under Italian military escort.

Speaking after an emergency meeting on the refugees chaired by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Boniver said Italy would probably charter ferries to take the Albanians back.

Five ships which picked up the bulk of the refugees — three Greek ferries, a Soviet tanker and a Turkish ferry — are stuck in various Italian ports along the Adriatic coast. They are refusing to sail unless the Albanians get off.

Police will not allow the Albanians to disembark because touching Italian soil would give them the right to apply for political asylum. Some of the refugees have started a hunger strike to try to force the Italians to let them land.

Agents for the shipowners are complaining that they are losing business and that the situation on

board is becoming untenable with hundreds of refugees confined to stuffy lounges in rising summer temperatures.

The Italian authorities, swamping with 28,000 Albanian refugees who came over in March, say they cannot handle any more and have nowhere to house the latest batch during the months it would take to process their asylum requests.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis went to Tirana Thursday with promises of economic and political support for the new government, but insisted that Albania had to halt the exodus of refugees to Italy.

"We are not asking Albania to shoot anybody. We want this problem solved in the most civilised way possible, but the situation is becoming unbearable," de Michelis said.

He said that of the 28,000 Albanians who had come this year, only a few hundred would qualify for political asylum.

Italy has said all the Albanian refugees will be sent back after July 15 unless they have by then found work or obtained political asylum.

Italy has also promised \$50 million in immediate aid to help Tirana fill depleted food stocks and avert economic catastrophe.

India trudges wearily to end of marathon elections

NEW DELHI (R) — India staggers Saturday towards the end of marathon elections that started amid widespread violence and were punctuated by the traumatic assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

Most signs point to the 514-million electorate — cynical, disillusioned or just plain tired by a campaign that started way back in April — denying a majority to any of the three major contenders on the right, centre and left.

India, most analysts predict, is looking at its first coalition government, probably cobbled together around Gandhi's centrist Congress Party, ruler of India for all but three years since independence from Britain in 1947.

But before counting starts Sunday — with firm results for the 545-seat parliament expected some time Monday — the country has another difficult day to get through.

Nearly 200 million people are entitled to vote in polls for the 186 seats at stake on the last of three days of voting, staggered to allow security forces to be moved around the country to prevent violence over attempted rigging and intimidation.

The first phase of voting took place May 20, the day before Gandhi was killed, and the second, deferred because of the murder, Wednesday. The very last voting will take place in Punjab, with 15 seats, June 22.

By the time Gandhi was killed by a woman suicide bomber in the southern state of Tamil Nadu May 21, more than 230 people had died in India's bloodiest election campaign.

The level of violence reflected

the tightness and bitterness of a contest that followed 18 months of caste and religious strife in which hundreds of people were killed and came in the middle of the country's worst economic crisis.

Three governments came and went in that period, which featured the rapid rise of the right-wing Hindu chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The BJP has conducted a powerfully emotive campaign based on insistence that a 16th century mosque in Uttar Pradesh, which has the most seats in parliament of any state and is the core of the northern Hindi-speaking belt, be replaced by a temple.

The BJP used the mosque issue as a symbol in a campaign to boost Hindu pride and forge a Hindu nation, feeding on latent animosity to the 120-million Muslim minority, in a country where the overwhelming majority is Hindu.

The party, which rose from just two seats in 1984 to 86 in the last elections in November, 1989, is likely to end the second biggest party this time, the latest polls suggest.

An exit survey by the Marg Polling Organisation from the first two phases of voting and published in the newspaper Hindu Friday, suggested Congress would end up with around 200 seats, some 40 ahead of the BJP, with the National Front and its communist allies at about 120.

The newspaper said Gandhi's assassination, which spread a sense of despair around the country, had injected an entirely new element into the campaign and

meant the exit polls were not necessarily reliable.

Wednesday's voting brought relatively little violence. Most of it was confined to Bihar state, always a hotbed of caste antagonisms, where about a dozen people were killed.

But more was expected Saturday, with 43 of the 85 Uttar Pradesh seats at stake and all 39 in Tamil Nadu.

In Punjab, the army was given sweeping powers to crush Sikh militant attempts to thwart elections, a senior state official said Friday.

Punjab's chief secretary Tejendra Khanna said the whole state had been declared a "disturbed area," giving soldiers the same powers as the police to raid, search and arrest.

Under the powers, suspected militants may be detained without trial for six months.

Khanna said the soldiers were needed to counter a militant campaign to kill candidates and scare voters away from the polls, set for June 22, to elect both a state assembly and 13 members of parliament.

On Thursday, officials investigating the assassination of Gandhi said they were now certain Sri Lankan Tamil rebels were responsible.

The officials said the breakthrough came the arrest of a woman and her son, charged Wednesday with sheltering the woman suicide bomber who killed Gandhi.

"It is now established beyond

doubt that the LTTE did it," said one senior official in the state capital Madras.

Sri Lankan president calls for report on alleged massacre

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa called Friday for an urgent report from the commander of the army on the alleged massacre of up to 150 Tamil villagers by troops, officials said.

Parliamentarians representing the eastern Batticaloa district screamed genocide and accused soldiers of shooting, hacking and setting fire to 300 houses in the district Wednesday.

The numbers killed varied from a military estimate of 52 to more than 150 by a Tamil member of parliament, Pararajasingham Joseph. Another parliamentarian said 60 were killed and yet another put the figure at about 100. They said more than 20

people were injured.

"The president has called for an immediate report from the defence ministry and the army commander (Hamilton Wanasinghe)," said Bradman Weerakoon, a senior adviser to the president.

Residents in Batticaloa said the military had cordoned off the area of the incident, 300 kilometres northeast of Colombo. "I can't go to see what is happening because the military won't allow us to go," said a resident.

Weerakoon said representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were visiting the scene Friday.

Earlier reports had said the ICRC representatives had not

been allowed to go to the area.

Weerakoon said medical teams were rushed to Batticaloa Hospital Friday and some of the injured were airlifted from Batticaloa to other hospitals.

He said Rehabilitation Minister Perikere Dayaratne flew to Batticaloa Friday to provide rehabilitation facilities for the injured people.

Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga would fly to the scene Saturday accompanied by some members of parliament, Weerakoon said.

The MPs said the massacre took place after two soldiers were killed and another wounded when Tamil rebels detonated a landmine under their truck at Kokadichola in Batticaloa.

Sweden bids for EC membership

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson announced Friday that Sweden will apply July 1 to join the European Community (EC), saying his country's policy of neutrality is no obstacle to membership.

The main factor behind the decision was that Sweden's export-based economy needs markets for its products and the EC's economic union threatened to leave it, and other Nordic countries such as Finland and Norway, out in the cold.

But the dramatic political changes in Eastern Europe and the ending of the cold war also played a part.

"The government has today decided to hand over the application of Swedish membership in the European Community," Carlsson said after final deliberations with the foreign advisory council, which includes King Carl XVI Gustav.

"There is no reason to believe that the EC is now in a process of turning into a military alliance," Carlsson told parliament, which had previously approved an application in principle.

Opposition leaders said they supported the government's decision. The issue of Sweden's neutrality had been a point of contention among Sweden's political parties regarding possible EC

membership.

European Community members are discussing political and defence alliances as well as an economic union.

"Sweden must continue ... to consistently refrain from participation in military alliances or other binding military cooperation with other states, apart from our obligations as a member of the United Nations."

"Therefore, Sweden cannot take part in a common defence policy or a mutual defence commitment within the EC framework, without foregoing its policy of neutrality," Carlsson said.

Chinese premier rejects multiparty system

BEIJING (AP) — A multiparty political system would throw China into chaos and create an "abyss of misery," Premier Li Peng said in an interview made public Friday.

Li also praised Communist Party General-Secretary Jiang Zemin's leadership during a two-hour interview with the Mexican newspaper "El Sol." Excerpts of the May 30 interview were carried by the official Xinhua news agency.

Jiang was named to the top party post two years ago after his predecessor, Zhao Ziyang, was purged for supporting the massive student-led protests for democracy. Sources say Li himself wanted the job, and relations between the two men are believed to be tense.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping has designated Jiang the "core" of the new party leadership, but hardline party elders have tried to promote Li's status by referring to the "two cores," meaning both Jiang and Li.

Li made no mention of a rivalry, and instead emphasised the

unity of the top leadership. "Political stability in China primarily means the stability of the Chinese Communist Party, and what is most important is the stability of its leadership, especially the core of leadership," he said.

Li said Jiang had "proved himself undeniably equal to his important position," and called him "a very learned man" with "rich experience in various areas."

He revealed that Jiang had worked underground during the civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists before 1949 and had organised student movements.

Li said China has not abandoned its political reforms, but made it clear China would not adopt a multiparty system as its one-time Socialist allies in Eastern Europe have.

"Should China adopt a multiparty system, the country would be thrown into chaos, its economy would decline and its people would once again be thrown into an abyss of misery," he said.

Political challenges cut short honeymoon for Cresson

By David Crary
The Associated Press

PARIS — It hasn't been much of a honeymoon for Edith Cresson. She completes her first month as premier this weekend grappling with an array of social woes and bracing for a no-confidence vote in parliament.

Not even her critics hold Cresson personally responsible for the rash of domestic troubles — high unemployment, rioting by immigrant youths in low-income suburbs, strike after disruptive strike.

Yet, outside government ranks, hardly anyone of prominence seems eager to predict publicly that Cresson can resolve these problems.

"In truth, each day that passes since the appointment of the new premier has only reinforced ambiguity and doubt," wrote columnist Yann de L'Ecotais in L'Express, France's foremost weekly news magazine.

When President Francois Mitterrand appointed Cresson May 15 to replace Michel Rocard, the initial public reaction was positive. It was the first time a woman was named to the post, and polls

indicated most French people liked the idea.

But Cresson's first speech to parliament, a vague outline of priorities, roused little enthusiasm even among fellow socialists. The conservative opposition, sensing an opportunity, ruled out any grace period for Cresson and plans to seek a vote of censure Monday.

The motion appears certain to fail. But it demonstrates the opposition's eagerness to make life hard for Cresson, 57, a feisty, articulate speaker whom the press depicts as a leftist version of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Cresson comes from a well-to-do family, yet has been a devout socialist for decades and a protégé of Mitterrand's since the early '70s.

One of Cresson's problems is that politicians across the spectrum, including some socialists, would benefit by her failure.

Her party includes powerful factions aligned to prospective presidential candidates, and they do not want Cresson to emerge as Mitterrand's natural successor when his second seven-year term ends in 1995.

The Socialist hierarchy has become "a nest of vipers," said political commentator Francois Bazin.

Cresson hasn't said whether she'd consider running for president, but the press abounds with comments from anonymous politicians suggesting she will.

In France, the premier is responsible for domestic programmes but answers to the president, who oversees military and foreign policy.

Cresson knew a censure vote was inevitable because of the Socialists' tenuous position in the national assembly. Lacking an outright majority, they need help from the communists or centrists to pass legislation.

When both these groups refused to support a major budget bill, Cresson's hand was forced. She invoked article 49-3 of the constitution, under which a bill can become law without a vote unless the assembly approves a motion of censure.

Such a motion, if passed, could force Cresson to quit and lead to parliamentary elections earlier than the scheduled date of 1993. Fortunately for Cresson, the Communists say they will not

support the censure motion Monday. Without them, the center-right cannot secure a majority.

The communists have not excluded the possibility of backing a future censure vote. But for now, their relations with the socialists are improving after strains during Rocard's tenure.

Cresson speaks fondly of the 1981-84 era when the communists served in the Socialist government. But the current rapprochement is alienating centrists and fuelling a drive for increased unity among the main conservative parties.

"With Madame Cresson, we're marching backwards," said Gerard Longuet of the Centrist Republican Party.

Even with communist cooperation, Cresson faces a daunting domestic agenda.

The budget deficit is mounting, and so is the unemployment rate, now 9.4 per cent. Unions demand more jobs and more pay.

Leftist politicians say suburban unrest can be quelled only with infusions of cash to improve living conditions and job prospects for North African immigrants in

bleak housing projects. Conservative leaders oppose tax hikes that could generate such funds.

The left expects Cresson to show solidarity with immigrants, while police want to crack down on suburban troublemakers — who are often equated with immigrants. Officers whistled derisively Tuesday when she attended a service honouring a policewoman run over by North African youths in a stolen car.

Recent opinion polls indicate some ambivalence about Cresson. They show her approval rating at about 42 per cent, her disapproval rating at 24 to 30 per cent, and a big "undecided" group — 28 to 33 per cent.

That ambivalence was reflected in two recent articles in Paris Match magazine. Political analyst Arther Conte likened her appointment to "low-voltage electro-shock therapy" that wouldn't solve fundamental problems.

Yet, in another article, an unidentified cabinet member was quoted as saying: "Watch out for her. She could succeed... she could become an unstoppable presidential candidate."

COLUMN

Sean Connery dismounts in film for \$12m

NEW YORK (R) — Scottish actor Sean Connery received a million dollars for a one-minute appearance as the king of England in a new film about Robin Hood, according to a publisher's report. "He's on-screen for as long as it takes to get off a horse and bless the marriage of Robin and Marian," said Jeff Menzies, New York critic for the Hollywood Reporter after seeing Connery's performance in "Robin Hood — Prince of Thieves." "He didn't have to study hard for it but he looked real good," said Menzies. "He shows up in the last minute of the movie and he's the best thing in it." Connery, who won an Oscar in 1987 for his performance in "The Untouchables," receives no-screen credit in the long-awaited \$30 million adventure film, which opens in the United States Friday. Kevin Costner in the title role. Premiere Magazine reported 60-year-old Connery's \$500,000 salary. Industry sources said Connery received \$7.5 million for his starring role as well as a percentage of the film's profits. Morgan Creek Productions, which developed the film, would not discuss salaries. Connery's brief appearance as King Richard the Lionheart was shot in a single day in Burnham Beeches, a forest south of London.

Thief takes cross ring of bishop's body

CAMDEN, New Jersey (R) — "I'm nothing sacred!" While the body of the late bishop George G. Gelineau lay in state in the cathedral rectory in Camden, a thief broke in and stole his gold cross and ring. The loss was discovered when the rectory was unlocked about 4 a.m. Thursday and was reported to police, said Monsignor Paul Gallagher. "I've seen things happen almost daily, but I never expected someone to desecrate a bishop's body," Gallagher said. Police said they have no suspects in the case and security has been beefed up at the 125-year-old cathedral. The 77-year-old bishop, who retired two years ago after heading the Diocese for 21 years, died Tuesday.

Nun files \$10m suit

BOSTON (R) — A U.S. nun who alleges she was abducted, raped and tortured by military personnel in Guatemala filed a \$10 million dollar lawsuit against former Defence Minister Hector Gramajo in a U.S. court Thursday.

Sister Dianna Ortiz, 32, a nun with the Ursuline order of Mount St. Joseph, alleges in the suit that she was abducted by military personnel who beat, raped and tortured her repeatedly during a 24-hour period in November 1989. The lawsuit, filed in Boston, alleges Ortiz was burned more than 100 times with a cigarette and put in a pit that was crawling with rats and contained human bodies. The lawsuit alleges that Ortiz's rights were violated as part of a programme that "included the murder, disappearance and torture of thousands of Guatemalans as well as foreigners during gramajo's 3 1/2-year stint as Minister of Defence." Ortiz's legal team includes attorneys who last week filed another suit against Gramajo in Boston alleging he was responsible for act of murder, torture, disappearance and forced exiles of civilians. The lawsuit, filed by nine Guatemalan, seeks scores of millions of dollars in damages from Gramajo, a potential presidential candidate in 1995 who was Guatemala's army vice chief of staff from 1982 to 1990. That suit describes Gramajo as "the worst human rights violator in the western hemisphere" responsible for perhaps 10,000 deaths and countless acts of torture in a programme aimed at wiping out all opposition. Gramajo was served with the lawsuit Thursday afternoon at a Harvard University Dormitory, Stephens said.

Tokyo woman is robbed of nearly \$1m

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese housewife offering a prayer at a Tokyo Buddhist temple was robbed of a bag containing cash, bonds and documents worth 1.3 million yen (\$922,000), police said Tuesday. They said the bag was stolen while Sachimi Takayama, 67, and her husband were at the altar for several seconds Sunday. Takayama told police she thought carrying her valuables would be safer than leaving them at home, which had been robbed before.